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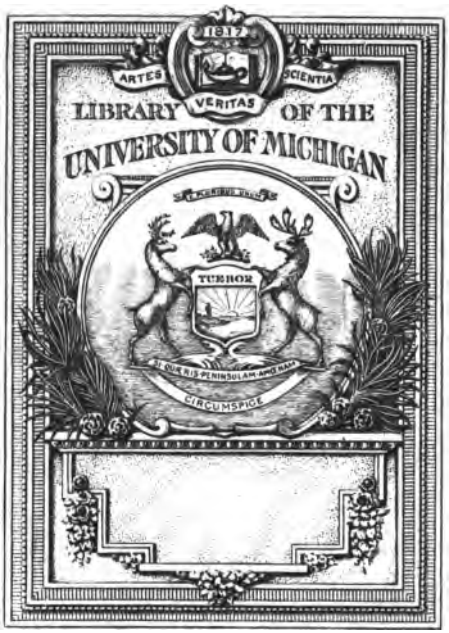

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KINAHAN CORNWALLIS, DEL.

STANNARD & DIXON, LITH.

MY NAGASAKI FRIENDS.

NOSKOTOSKA & TAZOLEE

TWO JOURNEYS TO JAPAN.

1856-7.

BY

KINAHAN CORNWALLIS,

AUTHOR OF "THE NEW EL DORADO; OR, BRITISH COLUMBIA,"
ETC. ETC.

ILLUSTRATED BY THE AUTHOR.

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TWO JOURNEYS TO JAPAN.

CHAPTER I.

THE reader not altogether unfamiliar with the history of the last five centuries, will be aware that for more than a hundred years antecedent to the discovery of the passage to India by the Cape of Good Hope, the commerce of the eastern seas, so far as the rest of Europe was concerned, remained almost entirely in the hands of the Portuguese. The ancient Venetian commerce with India by the Red Sea had been speedily terminated; while the trade carried on overland, *viâ* Aleppo and the Persian Gulf, was in chief controlled by that power, then holding possession of Ormus, through which it chiefly passed.

Even the discovery made by the Spaniards of another passage to India by the Straits of Magellan, and the settlement which they made about the year 1570 in the Philippine Islands, did not tend very materially to interfere with the Portuguese monopoly.

It was the desire to share in this eastern commerce—this traffic which made Lisbon the wealthiest and most populous city of Europe,—that led to so many attempts to discover a north-eastern, or a north-western, and even a northern passage to India, *i. e.*, directly over the pole. This was more for the sake of avoiding collision with the Portuguese and Spanish in trading to the east, than even the saving of distance. These attempts were at first confined to the English, beginning with that made by Sebastian Cabot on his third and last voyage from England. The Dutch and Belgians were long content to buy Indian merchandise at Lisbon, to resell in the north of Europe; but after the union of the Spanish and Portuguese dominions in 1580, and the seizure which soon followed of the Dutch ships at Lisbon, and the exclusion of that country from any trade with Portugal, the Dutch began to

entertain, even more eagerly than the English, the desire for a direct communication with the east.

Drake, in his voyage round the world (1577—80) outward by the Straits of Magellan, and homeward by the Cape of Good Hope, a track in which he was speedily followed by Cavendish (1586-8), led the way to the Indian seas. But the failure of Cavendish in a second attempt to pass the Straits of Magellan, as also the capture in 1594 by Spanish-American cruisers of Sir Richard Hawkins's ship, served to keep up the terrors of that passage. Meanwhile, the English, in the person of Captain Lancaster, in 1592, had accomplished the first voyage from British shores to India by way of the Cape of Good Hope. Between 1595 and 1598, the Dutch sent out eighteen vessels, with a view to opening up a trade with the east. The Dutch merchants were at that time more wealthy than those of England, and in those enterprises of theirs they obtained the services of several English seafarers.

Attached to the expedition of '98 was one William Adams, of whom, as the first British

subject who visited Japan, I shall here speak. He was born on the banks of the Medway, not far from Rochester, and at the age of twelve had commenced a seafaring life as apprentice on board a schooner sailing from Limehouse, near London. He remained twelve years in the service of the owner of this craft, and subsequently served for a short time in the British Navy. Then, for twelve years, he was employed by the Worshipful Company of the Barbary Merchants; after which he entered, as we have seen, the Dutch service, and in the capacity of chief-pilot over a squadron of five ships.

They left the Texel on the 24th of June, and, on the 24th of August, reached the Cape de Verde Islands, where they remained twenty-one days to refresh the men, many of whom were already afflicted with scurvy, including the captain of the fleet, who died immediately after the voyage was resumed. Encountering heavy weather and ill winds, they were forced to the coast of Guinea, where they landed on Cape Gonzalves, just south of the line.

From this they sailed to the coast of Brazil;

but sighting soon afterwards the Island of Annabon in the Gulf of Guinea, they landed and took possession of the town there, which contained about a hundred houses. Having obtained a supply of cattle, fruits, and vegetables, and having buried thirty-two of their men—victims to scurvy and fever—they departed.

The fleet remained two months on the African coast, and, after setting sail thence, five months more were occupied in reaching the Straits of Magellan, the crews during the greater part of that time having been on short allowance, and driven to such extremity as to eat the calf-skins with which the ropes were covered. Having entered the Straits, they procured a good supply of penguins, upon which they fed; but, in consequence of the commander stopping too long to take in wood and water, they were overtaken by the winter, which set in earlier than usual, and by this detention the fleet lost a hundred and five men by cold and hunger.

When they did pass through the Straits, which took place at the end of September, they

having been lying idle since the April previous, a violent storm came on, which separated the ships. The vessel on board of which was Adams, ran by Valdivia on her way to Mocha, and thence to the neighbouring island of Santa Maria, but anchored opposite an inviting and inhabited spot on the mainland. The crew here attempted a landing, but were met by a shower of arrows from the natives collected on the beach.

Determined, however, to make another trial, they being in great want of water and provisions, twenty-three of them, when the beach was deserted on the day following, went ashore in two of the ship's boats. They at once proceeded inland, when suddenly they were pounced upon by a swarm of natives who emerged from an ambush, and every one of them was massacred.

With only two or three men on board, including Adams, the needy mariners drew anchor, and sailed on to Santa Maria. There they found one of their fleet, but in distress as deep as they were themselves, having at the Island of Mocha lost their commander and

twenty-seven men at the hands of the natives, in the endeavour to land and obtain provisions.

From this, both vessels, after a consultation of those on board, sailed for Japan, a country in whose waters the Dutch flag had never yet waved, and known to the mariners in question only by remote hearsay. On their way they stopped at the Sandwich Islands, to which eight of their men ran off with the pinnace, disgusted, no doubt, with the hardships of their life afloat. But it was a mere jump *from the frying-pan into the fire*, as, by the report of a native who came on board the day afterwards, the fugitives were murdered soon after their landing.

Sail was again set; storms again assailed the feebly-manned vessels; the one foundered, but the other, on board of which was Adams, sighted the hoped-for land when four men only were left of the crew: it proved to be the eastern coast of Ximo. The vessel was soon surrounded by Japanese boats, and those on board were escorted to Osaka, at which place they were incarcerated, but soon afterwards liberated.

The next Dutch arrival in Japan was in the July of 1609, and consisted of a ship and yacht belonging to an expedition of thirteen ships which had left Holland in December, 1607. This took place at the port of Firato, Isle of Ximo. The Dutch were well received, and sent a deputation to the Emperor's Court, with presents, in the name of the Stadtholder, and were successful in obtaining leave to establish a factory at Firato, for the supply of which with goods the Dutch were also allowed to send a ship or two yearly.

The larger of the two vessels soon afterwards again set sail, and arrived in the Texel in the July of 1610, bearing a letter of greeting from the Emperor of Japan to the King of Holland. The Dutch were in chief indebted for their success to Foyna Sama, King of Firato, who interested himself greatly in the establishment of a Dutch factory on his island.

In the autumn of 1608, the late governor of Manilla, while returning to New Spain in a galleon, was wrecked on the south-east coast of Nipon. In the first instance those on board knew not upon what land they had been

stranded. They, however, proceeded to a neighbouring village, the inhabitants of which manifested much commiseration and hospitality on their behalf, the women even shedding tears. They supplied them with food and clothing, and sent word to the tono, or official inspector of the district, who sent word that they should be well treated, but not allowed to remove from the empire.

They were soon visited by the latter, who came in great pomp, preceded by three hundred men, bearing banners, lances, matchlocks, and halberds. He saluted the shipwrecked governor with much ceremonious politeness, and promised to dispatch a messenger to Jeddo, conveying the details of the case to the imperial authorities there.

The messenger returned in twenty-four days, charged with a message of condolence, with leave to visit the Court at that city. Setting out on their journey, the first town on their route was one of twelve thousand inhabitants, where dwelt the *tono*. The latter here took the governor to his castle, which was of massive and of picturesque construction, situated on a

hill-top, and surrounded by a moat fifty feet deep, crossed by a draw-bridge. The gates were of iron, and the walls, of solid masonry, were eighteen feet in height by nearly the same in thickness.

Near the first gate stood a hundred musketeers in red and blue, and between that and the second gate, which opened through a second wall, were beautifully arranged houses and gardens. The apartments of the former, which were of wooden build, were exquisitely finished and adorned with a tasteful profusion of gold and silver lacquered work, carvings, and pictures. The travellers were well lodged and entertained along the entire road to Jeddo, the density of the population much surprising them. The latter city received them with crowded streets and endless curiosity. A guard had to be placed in front of the house which had been prepared for their reception, so eager was the multitude to see, speak with, and examine them.

Jeddo at that time contained only a million of inhabitants. It was traversed by a considerable river, navigable by vessels of moderate size, and by this river, which divided in

the interior into several branches, the inhabitants were supplied with the agricultural and other produce of the country. The streets and squares were very handsome, clean, and well kept. The houses were of wood, and chiefly of two stories. These were less imposing externally than they were magnificent and comfortable within; towards the street they had covered galleries. Each street was occupied by men of the same class, from the princes down to the artizans: thus the carpenters had one—the jewellers another—the tailors a third, and so on, with all the other numerous trades. The merchants and traders occupied dwellings similarly allotted. Even every kind of produce had its particular place of sale. Rice was sold in one street, radishes in another—such were the subdivisions.

There was a market where game was sold, and at which boars and deer, hares and rabbits, plentifully abounded. The fish market was very extensive and beautifully clean and neat, and displaying a great variety of deceased swimmers, and many living ones in tanks of water.

Adjoining the tea houses stood numerous, what

we should call, livery and bait stables, where horses, either for sale or hire, were abundant.

The nobles and great men inhabited a suburban part of the city, and their quarter was distinguished by armorial ornaments, sculptured, painted or gilt, placed over the doors of the houses—a privilege to which the Japanese nobles attach great value, and to which, or something very similar, the lower classes aspire, as was illustrated by the presence of such charms or heads over the doors of the houses at Simoda, and, but to a lesser degree, at Hakodada, mentioned in the narrative of my first journey. In each street resided a magistrate, who took cognizance, in the first instance, of all irregularities, civil and criminal, submitting the more difficult cases to the governor or chief magistrate of the city, in whom was vested authority over all the other magistrates.

The streets, fifty feet in width, were closed at each end by a gate, which was shut at nightfall. At each gate was stationed a guard of soldiers, with sentinels at intervals. Such was Jeddo—such in arrangement it is still, but it has grown and ripened under the influence of the inter-

vening time, and instead of one million of inhabitants it has more than five millions, and covers with its suburbs eighty square miles of ground.

Two days after the arrival of the shipwrecked governor, the Ziogoon sent an invitation for the former to visit him. To his palace, therefore, the Spaniard took his way. It was enclosed by a wall of immense blocks of stone, with embrasures at equal distances, well furnished with artillery. At the foot of this wall was a deep moat, crossed by a drawbridge of a peculiar and very ingenious construction. The visitor passed through two ranks of musketeers—about five hundred each—to the second wall, which was distant from the outer one some three hundred paces. At the gate four hundred lancers and pikemen were stationed. A thin wall, in height about twelve feet, was guarded by three hundred halberdiers. Within this was the palace, having also the royal stables on one side, containing three hundred horses, and on the other an arsenal with arms for a hundred thousand men. Twenty thousand retainers were permanently attached to this one palace.

The first apartment into which the governor was ushered, was entirely covered with rich ornaments, coloured crapes, velvet and gold; carvings and lacquered wood embellished the roof and cornices, while the floor was covered with the customary fine matting. The walls were hung with picturesque representations of hunting scenes. Each subsequent apartment through which the party were led outvied its predecessor in splendour. Finally one was reached, in which the Ziogoon was seated on a superb cushion of crimson velvet, embroidered with gold, placed upon a kind of platform, raised two steps in the centre of the apartment. He wore three dresses of silk, one over the other, the outer one being rich in green and yellow; in his sash were the two swords—the longer and the shorter. His hair was tied up with coloured ribbons, and shaven off in front after the orthodox manner. He was about thirty-five years of age, and distinguished by a light brown complexion, inclining to tawney. In form and figure he was well made and graceful, and about five feet ten in height. The governor was conducted to a seat on the left hand of the

Ziogoon, who made many enquiries of him as to his country and the rest of the world, through a Portuguese interpreter. Pipes and tea were then introduced, and the Spaniard was dismissed with honours.

Four days afterwards, the latter again set out, and on a visit to the emperor at Miako, passing through Suraga en route. The entire way on either side was traversed by the population as in the most populous cities of Europe. The roads were lined on both sides by majestic pine and cedar trees, which formed perfect avenues of shade. The distances were marked by small eminences planted with two trees; towns and villages were constantly in sight.

On arriving at Suraga, which then contained a population of only six hundred thousand, a convenient residence was appointed for the strangers, which, alike with that at Jeddo, was besieged by eager crowds curious to behold them. Here a messenger arrived from Miako, to convey the congratulations of the emperor to the visitors, as also with numerous presents. They were conveyed in a special palanquin of the highest class from this to Miako, where,

after the lapse of a week, an audience was given by his Majesty.

The governor was conveyed from his appointed house in one of the imperial palanquins to the palace, which was a fortress like that at Jeddo. Taken in its entire, the display was less attractive than at the court of the Ziogoon at Jeddo, but the pomp was greater, and there were more marks of awe, power, and pre-eminence. Following the minister into the presence of the emperor, the child of Spain, governor, and castaway, made a profound salutation, bowing low before his august majesty. The latter, in much magnificence of attire, occupied a square divan, whose sides glittered with choice and costly ornaments, and whose aspect was at once brilliant and luxurious. It was placed two steps above the floor, and surrounded at the distance of four paces by a lattice-work of frosted gold six feet in height, in which were small doors by which the emperor's attendants passed either in or out as they were signalled from the richly-arrayed but prostrate ranks of those present in the saloon. The monarch was nearly encircled by twenty of his principal officers clad

in long silk mantles, and a sort of trousers of the same material; they were seated after the usual manner, with their feet entirely concealed by their garments. The emperor was seated on an ottomanlike cushion of blue satin, worked with stars and half-moons of silver. In his sash he wore one sword only, and the surmounting tuft of his hair was tied up with velvet ribbons of various bright colours. His age appeared to be about sixty. He was of the middle stature, and of full habit. His countenance beamed with intelligence, and was at once venerable and gracious, while in complexion he was even lighter than the Ziogoon.

While the Spaniard remained in this the saloon of audience, a tono of high rank, *i. e.* prince commander of a district, was introduced. He had brought presents and revenue tribute in gold, silver, silk, and other things to a large amount. At a hundred paces from the throne he prostrated himself with his face to the floor, and remained in this posture for several minutes in perfect silence, during which time not a word was spoken by either emperor or subject. He then rose and retired, moving backwards, with his hands resting on his thighs, and together with his

suite, consisting of three thousand persons, left the palace. After this, the Spaniard was conducted by two ministers to another apartment, whence other great officers of state escorted him out of the palace with much ceremony.

Afterwards he was entertained by the chief minister of the emperor at a magnificent repast, the prince pledging his health and doing the honours in the best of saki, by placing the porcelain cup upon his head, a custom now nearly exploded alike with the toast-making of our own land—a happy deliverance, I own. Deliver me from a long-winded speaker at a wedding breakfast or elsewhere, and, still more, from a lord mayor's dinner. When will those municipal puppets, who, clad in the robes of office and surrounded by a hollow pageantry which belongs to the past rather than the present, and who for a year occupy a throne which awes not, commands not, that few care about, be cast down? Look to the *City* of London, for instance; it has its annual king, but why should *it* require such a phantom of power to worship, when the great City of London itself lies unrepresented by any such president; if either be necessary, the one

is in as much need as the other. The fact, however, is, that the institution is an useless incumbrance.

Few people live in the city; it is a smoky wilderness of dingy streets, abounding only in shops and their keepers, offices and their occupants, the latter of whom, as a body, reside miles beyond it. True, it is plentifully stocked with churches—gloomy old things, with gloomy yards full of crumbling remains, but who goes into them? Let any one go into the *city* on a Sunday, and he will find the churches next to empty, and the streets and buildings as mournfully silent and deserted as though the *city* had just been ravaged by a plague.

Our aldermanic brethren pride themselves too much upon precedent—upon the paltry *past* and the "petty *present*." This is an age of progress and social revolution, and those who lag behind—men who boast of their adherence to the *old school*—ought to be superseded in the onward march of the new generation. He who thinks he has gained happiness or achieved his destiny in the *present*, is not worthy of a better future. For my own part, I look

beyond *to-day*, and the insignificant fleeting incidents thereof; but the future is rife with richer things; we can more control its workings, and every man, alike with every nation, has the opportunity therein afforded him of moulding and directing his own destiny.

To return to the Spaniard and the chief minister. On the day following that last mentioned, the latter again invited him to an audience and refreshment. In answer to wishes previously expressed by the stranger, the minister now informed him that the emperor had placed at the disposal of the shipwrecked men—the reader must understand that it was one thing to be stranded on the Japanese shores, and quite another and a much more serious affair to enter one of their ports under full sail, therefore the former, as unfortunate seafarers, were very hospitably dealt with—one of the ships, of European model, which had been built by Adams, the Englishman, in which to proceed to New Spain. The Spaniard was grateful. The ship was at a port of Ximo, so to it he soon afterwards set out. Miako, at this time, had a population of about a million and a half.

It was situated on slightly elevated ground, in the centre of an extensive plain, and its walls were ten leagues in circuit. It boasted of five thousand temples; in one of the latter was a colossal statue in bronze, the thumb even of which was too large for a man to encircle with both arms; it was elaborately finished, and every limb and feature was as perfect and expressive as the most talented painter could make a portrait.

There was one temple then building, upon which a hundred thousand men were daily employed.

The temple and tomb of the emperor before mentioned,—who dedicated the former to himself under the name of Taiko Sama, and established the regency on his death bed, in order to insure the succession of his son,—was entered by an avenue paved with jasper, four hundred feet in length by three hundred in width. On either side, at equal distances, were posts of jasper, on which were placed lamps that were lighted at sunset, and kept burning till sunrise. At the end of this passage was the peristyle of the temple, ascended

by several steps, and having on the right a monastery, the residence of priests. The principal gate was encrusted with jasper, and overlaid with gold and silver ornaments, skilfully wrought. The nave of the temple was supported by lofty columns.

There was a choir, as in European cathedrals, with seats and a silver grating all round. Male and female choristers chaunted the prayers. The shrines were illuminated with an assemblage of brilliantly coloured lamps.

On entering the tomb from the sacred edifice six compartments had to be passed through, and as many sliding screens and curtains of white silk velvet withdrawn; there the remains of the emperor were encased in a chest of unique construction and elaborate workmanship. The tomb was lined with plates of gold, and none but the high priests were allowed to enter its precincts.

From Miako the Spaniard travelled by road and palanquin to Fucimi, where he embarked for Osaka, sailing thirty miles down the river of that name, which was as broad throughout as the Guadalquiver at Seville, and full of ship-

ping. The latter city then contained a population of about a million.

Here he embarked in a junk for Nagasaki. The appointed ship not being in proper repair, he was invited back to Suraga, where he endeavoured, but without success, to bring about the expulsion of the Dutch, towards whom Spain in general was then hostile, and against whom he in particular was much prejudiced, stigmatizing, scandalising, and libelling them just as much as one Christian does another, very often, at the present day. But the Spaniard, to speak in the vernacular, was as much a falsifier and dissimulator—I will not say a liar—as is any one of these same gossiping Christians. Finally, he set sail with presents and despatches from the Emperor to the King of Spain, on the second day of August, 1610, after a residence of nearly two years in the empire.

CHAPTER II.

LET us recur, reader, to the new religion—the Portuguese missionaries and their converts. In the early part of the year 1614, another and more fatal edict was issued against the faith, which had revived and flourished again since the crucifixions at Nagasaki. The purport of the present order was, that all priests and missionaries of the Roman religion should forthwith depart the empire, that all their houses and tabernacles should be destroyed, and that all the Japanese converts should renounce the foreign catholicism. There were at this time in Japan about a hundred and thirty Jesuits, in possession

of some fifty schools, colleges, and convents; also thirty friars of the three orders of St. Augustin, St. Dominic, and St. Francis, besides several secular ecclesiastics. The majority of these were immediately shipped away; some found means to return in disguise, but the persecution assumed a potent character which it was difficult to escape, and severe measures were taken against the native converts. Those who refused to renounce the religion of the missionaries had their property confiscated, and many were banished into the mountainous districts of an island lying northward of Nipon, while others shared the worse fate of crucifixion.

In 1616 the Emperor died, his son succeeding him. Even at this time—two years ulterior to the issue of the edict—there were still thirty-three Jesuits, sixteen friars of the three orders, and seven secular priests, who still, with the aid of native catechists, secretly continued to minister to their adherents. Seven Jesuits, and all the friars save one, were in Nagasaki and its environs. Of the other Jesuits several resided in the other imperial cities where they still found protectors, while the rest travelled from place

to place under various masks. Those at Nagasaki were disguised as Portuguese merchants, which latter were still allowed to trade.

Subsequently, some of them even ventured to resume the habits of their order, and preach in public, the result of which was, the issue of another and more precise edict from the new emperor. It was rife with vengeance, and inspired terror in the minds of many converts who had hitherto failed in altogether renouncing the faith, and resulted in the betrayal of many of the remaining missionaries. All Catholic Europe now wailed over these misfortunes; and the Pope, on his Roman throne, looked down in sadness, and surveyed, in the cold majesty of his solitary woe, a people who had strayed from the fold never more to return.

While the persecution of the Catholics was thus fiercely pursued in Japan, the Dutch, not only in that empire but throughout the eastern seas, were actively forcing a trade.

The English at Firato bought junks and attempted commerce with Siam, where they had already established a factory, one of their first establishments in the east, as also with Cochin

China and Corea, but the success which attended the endeavour was not great. In 1616, two small vessels arrived from England, one of which was employed in trading between Japan and Java.

The operations of the Dutch at this time were on a much broader scale. They drove the Spaniards from the Moluccas, threatened the Philippines, and for a time blockaded Manilla. Five Dutch ships, of large size, arrived at Firato in the year last mentioned. In 1620, open hostilities were waged between the mercantile fleets of the English and Dutch in the eastern seas, commencing at Firato. In the same year, Adams, who had up to this time remained in the service of the newly-established Dutch East India Company at Firato, died.

The reader must not suppose that any restraint or prohibition was put upon him by the Japanese since his arrival in the empire, with a view to detaining him in Japan: on the contrary, he had several offers made to him of a free passage to Europe, all of which he refused, preferring, as he did, the estate assigned to him by the Japanese, and subsequently the one hundred pounds a-year from the Company, to the

uncertainty which would have attended a resumption of his career in England.

In 1622, the Spaniards were suspected of smuggling missionaries into the empire, and were thenceforward wholly forbidden to frequent the islands for any purpose whatever. In the same year fourteen Jesuits and two friars were burnt at the stake. Two years later, in order to guard against the concealment and smuggling of priests, a new and more severe as well as comprehensive edict was issued, by which all the ports of the empire, except Nagasaki and Firato, were closed against foreigners, the former port being apportioned to the Portuguese, and the other to the English and the Dutch, while both were left open to the Chinese. As an additional security against the introduction of missionaries, the policy was adopted of confining the Portuguese sailors and merchants to the artificial islet of Dezaim adjoining, and in the harbour of Nagasaki.

A few months after the issue of the edict last referred to, the people, the king, and nobles excepted of the kingdom of Arima, where the new faith had been all but universal, as a last

resort broke out into open revolt. Headed by one of their ancient but ousted kings, they, to the number of forty thousand, took possession of the fortress of Ximabara, situated at the head of a gulf of that name to the eastward of Nagasaki. Here they were besieged by the imperial forces, captured, and slain to an individual. The Portuguese were accused, and rightly, of having encouraged this revolt, and, as a consequence, an edict was issued in 1638, which, in its effect, banished them without exception, and entirely forbidding also any Japanese to leave the empire, as had been the case in several instances. Their ships which arrived soon afterwards, unaware of the new act, were boarded and served with a copy of the edict, and without being suffered to enter a port or effect a landing of either crew or cargo, were sent away again.

The Portuguese, unwilling to give up so lucrative a trade without an effort to reinstate themselves, sent, through the corporation of the city of Macao, a deputation to solicit some modification of the edict. But these, to the number of forty-eight, out of the entire party of sixty-one, were crucified as violators

of the very edict against which they had come to remonstrate. The thirteen who were spared were then sent back to Macao in the vessel by which they had come there to report the fate of the mission, and the determination of the empire against them.

The Dutch rejoiced at the exclusion of the Portuguese. They expected to now enjoy a monopoly. In 1641, however, they were placed under severe restrictions, and removed from Firato, and the roomy stone fort which they had there erected, to the occupation of the islet of Dezaim, the prison-house of the Portuguese. To this narrow island they have been confined ever since, occasional visits to Nagasaki and its environs, and the periodical journeys to Jeddo excepted.

The goods imported by the Dutch to their Japanese factory were principally as follows: raw silk from China, Bengal, and Persia; all sorts of silks, woollens, and other stuffs (cashmere shawls excepted); Brazil wood; buffalo and other hides; skins, wax, and buffalo horns from Siam; tanned hides from Persia and Bengal only; pepper; sugar, in powder and

candied ; cloves and nutmegs ; camphor, from Borneo and Sumatra; quicksilver and cinnabar ; lead and saffron ; saltpetre and borax ; alum and musk ; gum benzoin and gum lac ; storax liquida and catechu ; fustic, corals, and amber; right antimony, used for the colouring of chinaware; looking-glasses and snakewood ; mangoes, and other unripe East India fruits in vinegar pickle; black-lead, and red pencils ; sublimate of mercury (but no calomel) ; fine files and needles ; spectacles and large drinking glasses of the best kind only, together with stuffed birds, and other foreign curiosities. On the other hand, the exports from Japan consisted of raw gold, silver, and copper, barrels of native camphor, bales of porcelain and lacquer ware, boxes of gold thread, umbrellas, fans, and fire-screens; wood and buffalo horns, the dried skin of whales, variously manufactured; transparent paper, ditto covered with coloured designs, and used as wall-paper; rice, saki, and soy ; barrels of vinegar, pickled fruit, together with tobacco, tea, and marmalades. All other articles were prohibited exportation by the Japanese government.

From this period Japan became tranquil, and again enjoyed that uninterrupted peace which originally and during a course of ages antecedent to its discovery by the Portuguese, with some isolated exceptions, had been a distinguishing feature of the empire. Fierce and potent, undoubtedly, were the measures adopted for the eradication of the Roman Catholic religion, and the reclamation of the native converts; but the impartial reader will have perceived that the restriction, although severe, was not altogether unjust or unduly harsh, considering the missionaries as well as their aiders and abettors as the common enemies of the government and country as they indisputably were. For so strong had the popular faith in the doctrine taught by the Portuguese become, that nothing less than the succession of stringent measures adopted would have resulted in the overthrow of the invaders, who would have gradually spread with augmented numbers over the entire empire, and in all reasonable probability have usurped the government of the country, and made Japan a mere colony tributary to perfidious Spain.

CHAPTER III.

THE internal affairs of Japan, politically and socially, from this time up presenting no striking incidents that would be of interest to the general reader, I shall proceed to review the course of subsequent events with regard to European communication with the empire. In the year 1700, the Russians made the first European discovery of the peninsula of Kamtschatka, stretching from the southern point of which the Kurile islands were seen and explored, the discovery of Japan following in the train of consequences. In 1713 the Cossack, Kosierenski, reached Konashir, one of the Kurile group,

lying off the north-eastern coast of Jesso, and under the control of the Japanese.

In 1736 a Dane in the Russian service visited all the southern Kuriles, coasted the island of Jesso, and sailing on to Nipon, entered several natural harbours on its eastern coast. These explorations were renewed by Potonchew in 1777, but it was not till ten years later that La Perouse made his survey of the sea of Japan, and ascertained the relative positions of Jesso and Sagaleen, and of the strait dividing them, which now bears his name.

In 1791 an English ship, the Argonaut, engaged in the North American fur trade, sailed close under the western shore of Nipon, and attempted to trade ; but she was surrounded by lines of boats, boarded by officials, and dismissed with a gratuitous supply of wood and water, no one on board being allowed to land.

In 1795-7, Captain Broughton, in an English exploring vessel, coasted the southern and eastern shore of Jesso, sailed along the southern Kuriles, and touched at several places on the southern part of Sagaleen.

Antecedent to the voyage last mentioned,

Russia had made a first attempt at a commercial and diplomatic intercourse with Japan. The crew of a Japanese vessel wrecked in the sea of Okotsk, had been saved by the Russians about 1782, and taken to Irkatsk in Siberia, where they remained for ten years, at the end of which time the governor of that territory was directed by the Empress Catherine II. to send the shipwrecked men back to their own country, and with them an envoy.

In the October of 1792, the party landed on the northern coast of Jesso, and passed the winter there, after which they entered the harbour of Hakodadi, from which they travelled by land to the city of Matsmai, three days' journey to the westward. The envoy was treated with great courtesy, but informed that he was liable to perpetual imprisonment for having violated the laws of the empire, which assigned the port of Nagasaki only for the entrance of foreigners; but that in his case the intention being a good one, and his defence ignorance of the imperial enactments, he would be exempted from such punishment, on condition of his confining his future Ja-

panese visits to Nagasaki. He was then dismissed with presents, and his vessel gratuitously provisioned.

In 1790 the Dutch were limited to a single ship annually, while, to accommodate their expenditure to this diminution in the trade, they were allowed to make the hitherto annual embassy to Jeddo quadriennial.

The occupation of Holland at this time, by the French army, not only exposed Dutch vessels to capture by the English, but cost the former kingdom several of her eastern colonies, and thus placed new obstacles in the way of the trade with Japan. It was to diminish the danger of capture by the British, that in 1797 the regular ship dispatched from Batavia sailed under the American flag, and carried American papers, while the master feigned to be *a born Yankee*, and called his ship the Eliza of New York. On leaving Nagasaki, on her return trip, this vessel being laden with copper and camphor, struck a sunken rock and foundered. The first endeavour made to raise the vessel was by sending down divers to bring up the copper; but, owing to the suffocating effect

of the melting camphor, two men lost their lives in the attempt, after which the plan was abandoned. Several modes of operation were resorted to, but without success, till at last a Japanese fisherman, with an ingenuity worthy of his country, undertook to recover both vessel and cargo. He fastened, by means of ropes, to each side of the sunken craft about a dozen of the native boats ordinarily used in towing, and to the stern, by similar means, a large coasting junk, when, availing himself of a high tide and stiff breeze, he spread sails and handled the sculls, so dragging the hidden ship from the rock, and towing her into a spot where at low tide she was discharged without difficulty, reloaded, and put to sea again. In reward for this service the fisherman was raised to the rank of a noble, privileging him to the right of wearing two swords; as also to take as his coat of arms a Dutch hat, and two tobacco pipes. Thus it will be seen that merit meets with its reward as well in Japan as in the majority of cases it does elsewhere.

In October 1804, a Russian vessel, having on board an ambassador and several ship-

wrecked Japanese, entered the harbour of Nagasaki. This was the second overture of the Russian government to open relations with Japan, and twelve years ulterior to the dispatch of the envoy before named, with a similar batch of imperialists. Contention, however, arose from the moment of entering the harbour. The Japanese demanded the guns and ammunition belonging to the ship, and required prostrations from the northmen as representatives of his supreme majesty the Mikado; upon which three points the Russians were unwilling to agree. In consequence of this, the matter was referred to Jeddo, and those on board were imprisoned till the return of an answer, a ceremony which occupied nearly six months, during the first two months and a half of which they were all confined entirely to their ship; then, however, the Ambassador and his suite of seven were allowed to land on a small islet, where a house had been fitted up for them; but the rest of the Russians were kept on board during the whole time, the ship being constantly surrounded with guard boats.

The answer from Jeddo was borne by a

special commissioner, immediately after whose arrival the ambassador was taken on shore in the barge of the Prince of Figen, the governor of the district, and from the steps of the landing-place he was conveyed to the governor's house, in the *norimon, i.e.* palanquin of the Dutch factory-director, borrowed for the occasion; but all his suite had to walk.

The answer returned to the Russians, both on the points alluded to, and as regards the establishment of commercial relations with the empire, was in every way unfavourable, and amounted to a flat refusal to have anything to do with them; even their presents were refused. But all this was done with the utmost show of politeness.

The presents were declined, owing to the circumstance of their acceptance necessitating a corresponding return at the hands of an ambassador similarly dispatched, which the strict law in force for the previous hundred and fifty years against any Japanese subject or vessel going to foreign countries, precluded their doing.

As regarded the subject of trade, Japan, said the governor, had few or no wants, and

little, if any, occasion for the produce of other lands; the Dutch supplied whatever the artificial tastes of the people called for, and under such circumstances he trusted that the Russian government would abandon the prospect of establishing commercial relations with Japan. He thanked them, in the name of the Emperor, for bringing home his shipwrecked countrymen, but in future these were not to be sent back, unless in Dutch or Chinese vessels; in conclusion, he wished them health and glory, and a happy deliverance from all their enemies.

The ambassador, disappointed and indignant, left the port immediately afterwards, and sailed to Okotsk, from which place he dispatched two small Russian vessels to make reprisals on the Japanese. They sailed along the coast of Sagaleen in 1806, and the year following, landing their crews and plundering the Japanese settlements on that island, with which loot they loaded their vessels; also making prisoners of and carrying away several Kuriles and two Japanese, and leaving behind them written notifications, in Russian and French, that this had been done in revenge for the slights

their ambassador had received when at Nagasaki.

At this time there was at Irkutsk a Japanese professorship, established by Catherine II., and filled by a shipwrecked Japanese who had embraced the Greek religion.

In 1807 the ship Eclipse, of Boston, chartered at Canton by the Russian-American Company for Kamtchatka and the north-west coast of America, entered the bay of Nagasaki under Russian colours, and was towed to the anchorage by an immense number of boats. A Dutchman boarded the ship, and advised the hauling down of the colours, as the Russians were not at all in favour with the Japanese.

The latter declined trading, and enquired what the vessel wanted. "Water and provisions," was the answer; upon which a plentiful supply of fish, hogs, vegetables, and tubs of water were sent on board gratuitously, according to the invariable rule pursued in that respect, after which the vessel was towed out again.

In the October of 1808, and about the time when the annual Dutch vessel was expected, a ship appeared off Nagasaki, when two Dutch-

men belonging to the factory, followed by the usual Japanese officers in another boat, proceeded to board her. The Dutchmen were met by a boat from the ship, and invited, in their own language, to ascend the ladder. They then, seeing that it was not their expected vessel, declined till the Japanese boat came up; they were, however, conducted on board the vessel, which proved to be the English frigate Phaeton, Captain Pellew, in search, as it appeared, of the annual Dutch ship.

The Japanese boat returned to Nagasaki without having communicated with the stranger, and spread at once a report which aroused the whole town and islet factory.

In the meantime, the Phaeton was threading her way into the harbour, without either leader or pilot. The governor of Nagasaki was in high wrath. At the harbour guard house, where a thousand men ought to have been under arms, there were found only seventy, and these were uncommanded.

To what country did the stranger belong? Why did the Japanese boarding officers return without ascertaining that information? While

all was uproar and consternation, the frigate anchored, and before reaching the inner harbour; a boat was then sent ashore with a letter from one of the two Dutchmen detained, saying that the strange vessel wanted provisions and water.

The governor was little disposed to yield to so imperative and abrupt a demand; and resolved, if possible, to detain the ship till junks and men could be assembled to attack her. On the afternoon of the day following, one of the Dutchmen, escorted, was sent on shore with a written request for provisions and water, and a threat to sail in, and burn the shipping in the harbour, if such were not supplied.

The demand was complied with by the indignant governor, after which the two Dutchmen were liberated. The former was still intent upon avenging the insult and discourtesy of those concerned with the frigate. One scheme was to prevent her departure by sinking vessels laden with stones in a certain narrow part of the channel—a second to fire her by means of a flotilla of boats filled with blazing reeds and rice straw, the prince of Omura at their head. But, while these plans were being discussed, the frigate

weighed anchor and departed. The governor was in dismay at having administered no retribution, and a tragical scene immediately succeeded the two vessels' departure. The former, to save himself from impending disgrace, cut himself open, as also did several officers of the harbour guard. The Prince of Figen—the second governor—although at Jeddo at the time, was imprisoned a hundred and twenty days for the negligence of his servants at Nagasaki in not maintaining the proper guard, and he was also adjudged to pay an annual pension to the son of the self-executed governor.

By this unceremonious conduct of Captain Pellew the Japanese were rendered more than ever averse to holding intercourse with foreigners, and as much prejudiced against the British as they had previously been against the Russians.

I may mention that the ships consigned to the Dutch from the year 1799 to 1803 inclusive, had been Americans. The renewal of the war in Europe having then once more driven the Dutch flag from the seas, the ships of 1806 had been an American and a Bremener; and those of the year following, an American and a

Dane; one of the two ships of 1809 was also an American. Up to the year last mentioned the ships from Batavia had arrived regularly at Nagasaki; but from that time till 1813 neither sail nor report reached the lonely inmates of the islet factory. During this time their European costume had become ragged, and their provisions scarce. They had to wear the fabrics of Japan, and use native oil instead of Bremen butter; and very gloomy, indeed, looked the isolated children of the land of windmills and canals. Great was their delight, however, when, in the March of 1813, the long-hoped-for vessels hove in sight, making the private signals which had been agreed upon after the visit of Pellew. Visions of butter in abundance, and cheese and Haarlem beer, beguiled in fascinating prospect the minds and cloudy imagination of the Hollanders, and the stupid fellows chuckled again with joy, as, redolent of garlic, they waited the welcome craft. The honey, however, did not come without the bees, and the latter were disposed to sting; for a boat was sent off to the factory, announcing the presence on board of the successors of these said Dutch-

men, who were declared by its terms to be superseded.

The letter was signed by one Raffles, *i. e.* Sir Stamford Raffles, of whom they had never heard before; but who signed himself *Lieutenant Governor of Java and its dependencies.*

They were filled with amazement. Immediately, one of them rowed away to the ship from which the letter had been sent, to ask who Raffles was. He found them, with two exceptions, to be all Englishmen on board.

"Who is Raffles?" said he, in a yard of incoherent Dutch.

He was then, to his dismay, informed that Holland had been annexed to France, and that Java had been simultaneously occupied by the English.

Holland to France! no, never. They might tell that to a Spaniard, but a Dutchman wouldn't believe it. He declined obedience to an order coming from a colony in hostile occupation.

If the Japanese were to hear of the English being in possession, they would massacre every one of them, and burn their ships. The result was, indeed, that the secret travelled no

further; where heads are in danger, people can keep a secret remarkably well; I almost believe that under such circumstances even a woman could resist her natural inclination to "confidentially" divulge. Some of the new officers sent out were to remain, but in positions subordinate to the Dutch, and under the feigned character of natives of the United States.

In 1814, a ship arrived from Batavia, having on board the British envoy who had borne the alarming letter of the previous year. She brought intelligence of the insurrection in Europe against France, and the probability of Java being soon again restored to the Dutch. This was done in order to make the Dutch director of the factory resigned to the British order of things for a short time. But no, the old Hollander refused to obey the mandates of the English governor of Java. The consequence was, that the latter sent no more ships, and the Dutchmen were left once more "alone in their glory" during the three years following.

During this time the Japanese government, having to contribute to the wants of the factory, turned the services of the cheese-eaters to a

good account. They were set to work, with the aid of ten interpreters, in the compilation of a Dutch and Japanese dictionary for the use of the Japanese men of science and the imperial interpreters. The work was completed, and a copy deposited in the national library at Jeddo. A transcript, imperfect, however, was subsequently made by a factory official, from the original rough draft of the work, and who, on his return home in 1829, deposited it in the Royal Museum at Amsterdam.

In 1811, the Russian sloop of war, Diana, commanded by Captain Golownin, was commissioned to make a survey of the southern Kurile Islands. Having anchored in a bay on the southern end of Kunasher, the twentieth island of the group, where the Japanese had a settlement and well-garrisoned fort, he and his party went on shore, when, being met by the Japanese, they were invited into the fort and made prisoners. They were, in the first instance, bound with a species of noose and cords, and then conveyed, partly by junk and partly by palanquin, and on foot, to Hakodadi, where they were

treated with much hospitality and politeness, and rather as guests than prisoners.

This capture was well merited by the Russians for their base plunder of the Japanese settlements in 1806-7, as well as the violation of the imperial law against vessels entering any port other than Nagasaki. The narrative of the Russian officer in question has been long published to the world, and I have therefore nothing more to say of him, further than that he was, after a confinement of a little more than two years, delivered up to the new Russian commander of his old ship, the Diana, with a written notification that in future any Russians entering the ports of Japan, would be received with cannon balls.

In 1818, two vessels arrived at Nagasaki from Batavia, bringing intelligence of the restoration of the latter to the Dutch, as also some butter, cheese, and beer, to reinvigorate the drowsy frames of the officials of the factory. Great was the delight of the old expostulator, who, years before, had asked in such high dudgeon who *Raffles* was.

There was on board one of these ships *A*

Woman! and, what was still worse, there was a child with her also. She was the wife of Herr somebody, who had come out to succeed the old expostulator before named; but this time according to his own expectation and desire, his term of office as director having expired. This importation of feminine humanity was a novelty which took the Japanese no less by surprise than it alarmed them. All Japan would be soon alive with young Dutchmen if these were allowed to land. After much consultation, however, she *was* allowed to land, but on condition only that she took her departure, child in arms, on the return of the ship by which she came. And this was done, the wife returning to Batavia, and the husband remaining at Nagasaki. "What a shame!" said all the women of Batavia, in Dutch, when the wife returned, and the fact became noised abroad. It *was*, ladies, "infamous! cruel!" I quite agree with you.

CHAPTER IV.

SHORTLY after this renewal of the old Dutch intercourse, *i. e.*, in June 1818, a small English trading brig from Okotsk, under the command of a Captain Gordon, attached to the English navy, entered the bay of Jeddo. He was immediately boarded by several officers, who enquired what he wanted, where he came from, and to what country he belonged. His reply to the first question was, that he had merely come to solicit the privilege of being allowed to bring a cargo of goods for sale. The Japanese, with the most winning politeness, informed him that such could not be allowed, and that with

his permission, (or without it also,) they would unship the rudder of his craft, and take possession of whatever arms and ammunition he had on board.

The vessel was then made the centre of a circle formed by twenty boats, which were again enclosed within another circle of a hundred boats, besides half-a-dozen junks mounting several guns each. Two interpreters had come on board, one speaking Dutch, and the other English, and both a little Russian. They made kind enquiries after the health of Napoleon Buonaparte, the King of England, and the King of the Dutch community, about all of which the captain was but little better informed than themselves. However, he answered them; after which they began to criticise his nautical instruments. "Whose your *instrumentalist?*" asked the English interpreter. The captain was puzzled, but said they were of the best London make, and referred him to the name and address engraved thereon. They knew all about them, it was unnecessary for the captain to explain their uses. Would he smoke a pipe; they were sorry that he could not be allowed to remain with them,

or visit them again, but such was contrary to the laws of their country. They hoped he would depart—in fact he must depart with the first fair wind. The Japanese bowed, and smiled, and handed him some tea to drink; and when the fair wind came they sent on board everything which had been taken away—his rudder, his guns, and his ammunition; and while two thousand boats hovered round his tiny craft, and the shore was lined with people, each as curious as the other, he was towed out of the bay by fifty native boats, and was soon as much at sea as before.

In 1830, some English convicts on board the brig Cyprus, bound for New South Wales, mutinied, and obtained possession of the vessel. After sailing about for some months, they anchored off the Japanese coast, and were at once fired at from the forts, which compelled them to take their departure without the required assistance.

In the year following, three Japanese, the only survivors of the crew of a junk which had been driven by stress of weather across the Pacific, landed on Queen Charlotte's Islands on the north-west coast of America.

Here they were taken into captivity by the natives, but released through the laudable interference of one of the servants of the Hudson's Bay Company, and shipped direct to England. From this they were again shipped to Macao, where they were taken charge of by an English missionary. Soon afterwards, four other Japanese, who had been wrecked on the Philippine Islands, were brought to Macao. The position of these men seemed to offer a good opportunity for opening communication with Japan, and accordingly an American mercantile house at that place fitted out the brig Morrison and dispatched her with the Japanese on board under the protection of two Protestant missionaries.

On the 27th of July, 1837, the lonely vessel ploughed her solitary way into the outer bay of Jeddo, up which she proceeded thirty miles as far as Uragawa, on the west coast of the bay. She was soon boarded by a number of officials, but all of an inferior class, and was brought to an anchor at sunset, about three quarters of a mile from the shore. During the night, however, cannon were planted on the nearest emi-

nence, and firing commenced; a proceeding which induced a retreat, the persecuted vessel being pursued by three gun-boats, each handled by forty men, who industriously occupied themselves in firing swivels. The Morrison, however, escaped without much injury. The Japanese informed the rest of those on board that these unpleasantries would have been obviated had they been allowed to communicate with their countrymen; instead of which, they had been kept close prisoners, out of sight, since entering the bay. So much for the policy of those concerned.

After cruising about the sea of Japan for some time, the Morrison was steered into the bay of Kangosima, in the principality of Satsuma. The vessel was hove-to in a small indentation beneath the frown of a high and rocky shore, beyond which extended far and wide a panorama of hills terraced with cultivation and beautiful with verdure. A boat was here sent from the brig to a Japanese fishing-vessel, which it accompanied to a village a little higher up the bay, where the people were found in great commotion. The vessel

followed, and was soon boarded by a two-sworded official in magnificent attire, accompanied by numerous attendants. The shipwrecked Japanese were then presented to him, upon which he informed those on board that preparations had been made to fire upon them, but as their representations appeared to be satisfactory, he should stay proceedings and communicate with his superior officer; in the meantime he could not allow the returned Japanese to land.

The vessel remained in the bay till the morning the 12th of the following month, when warlike preparations were seen going forward on shore; sheets of blue and white canvas were stretched from tree to tree in front of the town. These, the Japanese on board informed the rest, portended hostilities. They were not intended, as the Americans have supposed, to delude the strangers into the idea of their being forts, but simply as defences; for it appeared that there were four or five of these sheets one behind the other, so that the force of a cannon ball would have been considerably weakened, if not entirely repelled, by them.

Officers on horseback and several hundred

soldiers soon made their appearance on the scene, and a fire of musketry and artillery was as quickly commenced. The anchor was at once weighed and sail spread, but owing to the absence of a land-breeze, the ship was exposed, without any means of resistance, to a continuous fire from both sides of the bay. Fortunately it was from three to five miles broad, so that by keeping in the middle part she was comparatively removed from danger. The Japanese, with rueful visage, bewailed their position, and two of them shaved their heads entirely. The result of all this was, that the Morrison returned direct to Macao, having the Japanese still on board.

In 1845, the British surveying frigate Samarang entered the harbour of Nagasaki. As she approached, she was surrounded by numerous guard-boats, from one of which was handed a letter written in Dutch and French, directing her to be anchored off the entrance till visited by the authorities. With great difficulty permission was then obtained to land for the purpose of making astronomical observations, but the officials requested that this privilege might not be asked again till their superiors

were communicated with. They asked for this purpose a stay of two days. The captain offered to wait four days if they would allow his observations to be continued; this, however, they declined, saying that such would be on their part a violation of the laws by which they were governed.

The vessel was, meanwhile, abundantly supplied with such provisions as were required, and all on board were eulogistic in favour of the Japanese officials, whose dignified, courteous, and respectful demeanour commanded at once their attention and esteem.

In the same year, the American whaler, Mercator, while cruising among the northern islands of Japan, met with a sinking junk, from which she took eleven Japanese sailors, and twelve more from a neighbouring rock, to which they had escaped. The Captain of the whaler took them on to the bay of Jeddo, where he was surrounded by about four hundred boats, which took the ship in tow as far as the town of Odawarra, in front of which she was anchored, and her guns taken on shore. Here she was guarded for three days, and visited by many

boats and people, at the end of which time a notification arrived from Jeddo, informing the Captain that it was contrary to the laws of the empire for shipwrecked Japanese to be brought home in any save Dutch or Chinese vessels, but, in consideration of his ignorance of such, he would, on this occasion, be suffered to depart in peace, but that quickly.

Water and provisions were then amply supplied, and the Yankee whale-chaser was politely hurried to sea again, her guns on board, and a flotilla of boats, a mile and a half long, towing her to the mouth of the bay, their banners streaming gaily in the breeze, and sounds of pleasant music floating lightly on the air.

On the 20th of July, 1848, the Columbus ship of the line, and the Vincennes frigate, both American, anchored in the bay of Jeddo; they remained till the 29th, when they were served with a notification in Japanese and Dutch, explanatory of the laws of the empire with regard to foreigners, and requesting their immediate departure. Provisions and water having been supplied, the request was at once complied with.

On the day previous (the 28th), two French ships of war, the frigate Cleopatra and a corvette, on a surveying expedition, had entered the harbour of Nagasaki; but having been surrounded with boats, and refused all intercourse with the shore, they departed within twenty-four hours.

On September, 1848, a junk arrived at Nagasaki with fifteen foreign seamen from Matsmai; they were conveyed ashore, and thence carried in close kangos, or palanquins, to a temple fixed for their abode, and round which a high palisade was erected, no communication being allowed between them and the people. Eight of them were Americans, and the remaining seven Sandwich Islanders. They had belonged to an American whaler which had struck a shoal in the sea of Japan, and gone to pieces soon afterwards.

The fact of their existence at Nagasaki having been communicated to the American commissioner at Canton, the sloop of war, Preble, was dispatched to bring away these driftlings. She arrived off the harbour of Nagasaki on the 17th of April. Some native

boats at once came alongside, and threw on board a bamboo, in the split of which were papers containing the customary notifications to foreign vessels, as to their anchorage and the conduct they were to observe, as also certain questions which those on board were required to answer. One set of these Japanese papers were written in English, four Dutch words excepted, a verbatim copy of which I append.*

* 1. "Warning to respective commanders, their officers and crew, of the vessels approaching the coast of Japan, or anchoring near the coast in the bays of the empire. During the time foreign vessels are on the coast of Japan, or near, as well as in the bay of Nagasaki, it is expected and likewise ordered, that every one of the *schip's* company will behave properly towards, and accost *civillen* the Japanese subjects in general. No one may leave the *vessle*, or use her boats for cruising or landing on the islands or on the main coast, and ought to remain on board until further advice from the Japanese Government has been received. It is likewise forbidden to fire guns, or use other fire arms on board the *vessle*, as well as in their boats. Very disagreeable consequences might result in case the aforesaid *schould* not be strictly observed.

(Signed) "THE GOVERNOR OF NAGASAKI."

2. (This was addressed like No 1.) "By express orders of the Governor of Nagasaki, you are requested,

The ship was boarded soon afterwards by a Japanese interpreter, with seven attendants, who gave directions in English as to her anchorage. After this, another two-sworded official came on board to receive the answers to the questions contained on the papers just mentioned, and who made many enquiries. The sloop was then surrounded by guard boats, and the usual offer of supplies was made.

On the 26th the fifteen wrecked seamen were delivered up by the Japanese to the Ame-

as soon as you have arrived near the northern cavallos, to anchor there at a safe place, and to remain till you have received further advice. Very disagreeable consequences might result in case this order should not be strictly observed." Here followed a seal, a signature, and the symbol of the interpreter.

3. (This was addressed like No. 1 also.) "Please to answer as distinctly, and as soon as possible, the following questions: What is the name of your *vessle?* What her tonnage? What is the number of her crew? Where do you come from? What is the date of your departure? Have you any wrecked Japanese on board? Have you anything to ask for, as water, fire, wood, provisions, &c.? Are any more vessels in company with you bound for this empire? By order of the Governor of Nagasaki." Here followed two seals, and the same interpreter's symbol.

rican, and at the same time a document was handed to her captain, stating that as the Dutch and Chinese were alone allowed to bring home their own shipwrecked mariners, so the vessels of these countries would in future alone be permitted to take away the mariners belonging to other countries shipwrecked on the Japanese coasts; and of this he was requested to take notice.

Five weeks after the departure of the Preble, and on the 29th of May, the British surveying ship, Mariner, was anchored in the Bay of Jeddo, off the town of Uragawa, having been escorted by ten boats, who took her in tow from the mouth of the bay. A set of papers written in French and Dutch had, in the first instance, been thrown on board, requesting her captain not to cruize or anchor in the bay; but finding that he heeded not their instructions, they adopted the alternative of thus accompanying him. He was, however, refused permission to land, and was watched from guard boats and the fortifications on shore throughout the night.

On the day following, having made some

soundings, he sailed across the bay to Simoda, where he effected some surveys, but was only allowed to land on the beach for a short time, being constantly watched by the boarding officers and military attached to the forts. After this, he was supplied withfresh provisions and towed out again, having made a stay in the bay of three days.

On the 8th day of July, 1853, the United States fleet, consisting of four vessels under the command of Commodore Perry, first entered the outer bay of Jeddo, having called at Lew-Kew on the way. The narrative and results of that expedition, however, having been already published, it is unnecessary for me to do more than make mere mention of the fact. Of events ulterior to this it is out of my province to speak.

Connected with foreign intercourse with the empire of which I write, the review already made is such that additional comment on my part is unnecessary, and having thus said, I enter once more the streets of Nagasaki. Reader, let us go together.

CHAPTER V.

THE city of Nagasaki is of a half-moon shape, and built along the shore in a valley formed by the opening of the neighbouring mountains. The latter are more precipitous than lofty, but gashed with indentations and covered with inviting verdure. Immediately behind the city, approaching the mountain sides, reposes a beautiful panorama of stately temples, to the number of seventy—their conical roofs rising in pleasant antithesis with the more massive scenery around. Each has its gardens and terrace walks, and in the rear its necropolis. Mountain rises beyond mountain,

misty and indistinct in the distant background, and contributes to the imposing majesty of the view. Three streams roll down from these elevations, and eddy their way through the town, which, like other Japanese towns, is without either walls or fortifications; the latter being all situated lower down the bay. Some bastions are built along the harbour, but they are unprovided with cannon.

The rivulets alluded to are crossed by thirty-seven bridges of great strength and beauty, the majority of which are of stone.

The city is divided into two parts, which again are sub-divided into wards. The first of these, Utrimatz, or the inner town, consists of twenty-six streets, and the second, Sotomatz, or the outer town, of sixty-one streets, making altogether eighty-seven, besides several squares, and other enclosures. Each street contains about sixty houses.

The palaces of the two resident governors occupy a large space of elevated ground; they are exceedingly handsome structures, although somewhat crumbling in the lap of age. There are, besides other palaces, three streets, the

houses of which are assigned to, and entirely occupied by, the nobility of the place, and these are the handsomest structures in Nagasaki.

The city, down to the year 1688, had, like the rest of the imperial towns, two governors, commanding in rotation, the one off duty being for the time resident at Jeddo.

In that year, however, a third governor was created, in order that two might be always present at Nagasaki, relieving each other every two months as regards active service, while the third was to come in each alternate year from Jeddo to take the place of the senior resident of the two, who then proceeded to Jeddo on his vocation, liable, however, to be called upon for the transaction of any business connected with the city which he represented. Here he could rejoin his wife and family, neither of which were allowed to leave Jeddo during his absence on imperial duty, they being held as hostages till his return.

Each of these governors maintains, by imperial command, an extensive retinue, including ten Torika,—officers of noble blood, commanding their appointed troops; two karoo, or stewards

of the household; and thirty Doosiu, a class of officers military and civil, of inferior rank to the former, but above the rest of the household. The business of the Torika is to assist the governor with their advice, if required, and to execute his commands either in the capacity of military officers or as magistrates. Each of the latter maintains, as necessary to his dignity, a pike-bearer, a keeper of the great sword, and a sandal-bearer. The Doosiu are assistants to the Torika. They serve as guards, and do duty on board ship, especially in the guard boats. Each of these is required to maintain a servant.

At the entrance to the palace of a governor a guardis kept, consisting of four or five Doosiu. No domestic can leave the palace without taking from its place in the guard-room a square wooden tablet, which he must hang up again on his return, so that it can be seen at a glance what servants are absent. Within the great door, or main entrance into the palace, another guard is kept by some of the Torika, one of whom has charge of a book, in which he enters, as is the custom at the houses of persons of rank, the names of those who pass in or out.

The governor's equipage and attendance, when he leaves the precincts of his palace, consists of a led horse, by the side of which walks four of the gentlemen of his bedchamber, and behind it two pike-bearers, followed by a train of Karoo, Torika, and Doosiu, with their servants and attendants.

Next in rank to the governors are four local presidents or mayors, whose office is hereditary, in addition to which there are two deputy mayors, principally to represent the affairs of the new town. These were formerly chief magistrates, but their authority has been comparatively eclipsed since the creation of the triumvirate.

There are also four other officers annually appointed to solicit the interest of the town's people at the court of the governors, and to keep the latter informed of the proceedings of the mayors, for which purpose they have an apartment at the palace of the acting governor, where at least one of them is in constant attendance. There is no town hall or other place of public assembly, so that when these officers meet on business it is invariably at the house of the presiding mayor. Besides the various bodies of

interpreters and others connected with the foreign trade, there is a particular corporation of constables, consisting of the men of some thirty or forty families, who all reside in the one street, apart from the rest of the inhabitants. Their office is reputed military and noble, and they have the privilege of wearing two swords, a right which the mayors, alike with the mercantile classes, do not possess.

The tanners, who are likewise the public executioners, and who are held in great execration, are also allowed to wear two swords, by virtue of their office. They live in a separate village near the place of execution, which is situated at the western extremity of the city, alike with all other tanners and all other places of execution in every other town throughout the empire, In Japan a tanner is looked upon as a wretch fit only to dwell with tanners, and these despised men always form a separate community, aloof from the rest of the population.

The inhabitants of the waterside streets of Nagasaki supply the Funabaw or ship guard with the boats necessary for watching the foreign ships that enter the bay. There is another

fleet of boats commonly employed in whale-fishing, but whose duty is also to see all vessels of the latter description well off the coast, to report their approach, and to prevent smuggling.

Then there is a spy-guard stationed in an observatory and signal-fort situated at the top of a neighbouring mountain, there to keep a look-out for foreign craft, while on the summit of an adjoining hill is a beacon, which, when lighted, serves, in connection with other similar beacons, to telegraph to Jeddo, in a short space of time, the colour and shape of the light exhibited, being indicative of the cause of alarm, or otherwise, for which the telegram is made.

The householders of every street are arranged in companies of five or more, each street having about fifteen such associations. None but landlords are admitted into these corporations, each of which has one of its number at its head, who is to some extent responsible for the conduct of his four companions. The members of these clubs choose from among themselves an Ottono or chief magistrate of the street, the choice of which is by ballot, and the person having the greatest number of votes being presented to the

governor with a humble petition that he may be appointed to the office, which latter is not without its emoluments. The duty of the Ottona is to give the necessary instructions in the event of a conflagration breaking out, as well as to inspect the watch, and keep a register of births, marriages, and deaths, of departures and arrivals, and all the events of the time and district; to arrest violators of the laws, and to arbitrate upon or punish their misdeeds, in the event of the latter being only of a trifling character, as is generally the case; also to settle all disputes arising between people in his particular street. He has to assist him in the performance of these duties three lieutenants, besides the heads of the corporations of householders, a secretary, a treasurer, and a messenger.

A guard is kept every night of two sentinels, each having his station at one of the two gates denoting their boundary, and marching towards his companion of the watch till they both meet, when they march back again, and so repeat the ceremony, moving to and fro till the time appointed for their relief, or, if it be daylight, the suspension of the watch. These guardians

indicate the successive hours by bell-like signals.

The Japanese division of time is peculiar. The day, from the dawn to the end of the evening twilight, is divided into six hours, and the night, from the beginning to the end of darkness, into six hours also. The length of these hours is necessarily subject to constant variation as the seasons change. The end of this period or sixth hour, whether occurring at noon or midnight, is called the Kekouet, the second division Yoots, the third Nauats, the fourth Montsdouki, the fifth Itsous, and the sixth Souki.

Every year a list is made out by the street officers of all the inhabitants in each street, with mention of their religion—Sintoo or Buddhist; and with this list the street officers visit every house, followed by attendants, bearing a small box, containing a crucifix, and an image of the Virgin Mary, which, as each house is entered, are placed upon the floor and trampled upon by its inmates. Children, too young to walk, are lifted so that their feet may come in contact with the image and the cross.

In no other town of the empire does this custom linger besides Nagasaki, and even there the ceremony is becoming obsolete.

The reader will have no difficulty in tracing this to the Portuguese missionaries, and the disastrous religious wars of their period, events which naturally have prejudiced the ruling classes of Japan, even to hatred and contempt, against the innovations of foreign priestcraft.

CHAPTER VI.

THE reader has not forgotten the picture of Nagasaki bay by moonlight, nor my noble companion Noskotoska and the theatricals, but it is long since I left them behind; and as to me the once familiar face, and the once familiar scene, are things I love to greet again, so now do I welcome once more the prospect of their presence. Visions of burning boats, dancing to and fro in the realms of space, haunted my slumbers on my second night at Nagasaki; but I awoke early, and refreshed, and after the enjoyment of a cool, invigorating bath, went on deck to feast my eyes on the surrounding scenery.

The air was deliciously warm, without being oppressive; the sky presented the same vault of unruffled blue as on the preceding day; the hills and mountains were arrayed in the same golden light which suffused the waters of the tranquil bay.

All was peace and beauty; placid and sublime. The imposing majesty of nature's monuments were as things holy. The verdure of the mountains, the azure of the sky, the glittering roofs of palace and temple, the hundreds of stately junks, and still more numerous boats, all combined beneath the inspiring light of that flashing sky to make glad and jubilant the spirit of man. And glad and jubilant was I, cheered but not intoxicated by the splendours of the morning.

I am now in London, where fashion and famine pass each other by in the streets, and flaunting wealth and pallid poverty jostle each other in the crowd; and, alas! it is winter, cold, gloomy, and inhospitable; yet that landscape, as seen from the deck of that frigate, beneath the glad light of that glorious morn, is vividly before me, cheering my mental gaze,

and enhancing the pleasures of retrospection. But how different is the element by which I am now surrounded. I am supposed to be in the heart of the highest civilisation extant, in the centre of enlightenment, in the great city of the world; but how saddening the result when I for a moment turn aside to survey the working of its society, and the machinery of that civilisation; what unprotected misery do I not meet with; what homelessness and breadlessness; what vice and infamy; how incomplete the fabric, how lamentable its construction. Why are those thousands who sleep under bridges and archways, and in hundreds of other such places, hungry, desolate, and perishing in rags, not provided for? Why is there such a waste of life and labour? Why is there such temptation held out to crime when crime is so inexorably punished? Let the philanthropist ponder over these wide-spread evils, whose baneful and disastrous results meet the eye wherever we turn.

I am not the man to lift the untutored savage above the cultivated races of mankind; but I say that a happier lot is awarded to the unmo-

lested, uncivilised aborigines of any country than it is, alas! the fate of millions of our fellow-countrymen to experience, and that the civilization of Japan affords a heaven of contentment as compared with our own. Yet we boast of our intelligence and superiority among men. Go, reader, and look at the ill-supported night-refuge, and its beds of deal boards, in Field Lane, and the wretched pens in which women are herded in the casual ward at Islington, and the sheds where they are thrust away at Lambeth, and wait a little while till these muddy receptacles are filled, and then watch the hundreds of ghastly, ill-clothed creatures who are turned shivering away, without a refuge where to lay their heads, or a crumb to allay the pangs of a gnawing hunger. Ah, wealth and fashion! ye may revel away your lives in luxurious plenty, but think of your wretched fellow-men, and the helpless castaway women who populate in thousands your magnificent metropolis, your country. Why send your money to convert the heathen, when you have a community at home more vicious and depraved, and destitute, both morally and physically, than

are those for whom you subscribe, and who would be better without your aid? Our civilization has been pronounced *a mistake*, but such is not the case; it is the system of that civilization which is incomplete and faulty, and the day will soon come when the defects of the Christian year of eighteen hundred and fifty-nine will be remedied by the more liberal and just policy of an advancing people.

Fashion does not like to have these things preached to it, but fashion is as much dust as famine, and the only difference in appearance between the two is very often constituted by a few yards of crinoline or a pair of peg-top trousers. Humanity is, more or less, in all classes and every stage, heir to the same feelings, open to the same wants, and liable to the same vicissitudes, and a man with superior means at his command, who has so little feeling for his less fortunate fellow-man, that he would allow him to starve while within reach, is a creature too ignoble to aspire to immortality. I speak nationally and individually; it is individuals that constitute the nation, therefore it behoves every one of us to use his best endeavours towards

the amelioration of those evils which so widely and palpably beset our social system, and the organization of such institutions of a comprehensive character as may provide work for the willing, and bread and a habitation for the hungry and houseless. Why boast of our civilization and religion till this is done? Such a boast is either a delusion or a mockery, at once anomalous and contradictory. I am discursive, but it is on behalf of my fellow-men, and I trust that I have not usurped the privilege in vain.

After breakfast, on this my third morning at Nagasaki, I went ashore in company with the senior surgeon, the same who climbed the hills and mountains of Lew-Kew, and ascended the same stone steps leading to the town. We had determined upon an inspection of Dezaim, otherwise Desima, signifying the Fore Islands, *i. e.* the one fronting the city, or Desimamatz, the Fore Island street, it being considered one of the streets of Nagasaki. At the end of the stone bridge connecting the two places, stood a guard-house, where sentinels are always on duty. The islet itself has been raised from the rocky and sandy bottom, which at low water is left high and dry;

in shape it is an oblong square, the two larger sides being segments of a circle ; in aspect, therefore, it resembles a fan without a handle, hence my remark expressed at first sight to that effect.

On the north or seaward side were two strong gates, opening for the purpose of lading or unlading the Dutch vessels. The island was surrounded with a high paling, surmounted by spikes like a *chevaux de frise*. Thirteen posts were fixed, in the form of a half circle, in front of it, inside of which none but Dutch craft were allowed to pass. A shady footpath wound round the islet immediately within the paling, and a wide street, forming the centre of traffic, ran straight across it. The houses were of two stories, the upper being used for residential purposes, and the lower for the stowage of goods. At the back of the street, on the southern side, stood a large goods store, and two large fire-proof depositories built by the Dutch Company, also a restaurant, and a house for the deputies of the governors of Nagasaki, who have the superintendence of the trade, also one for the use of the interpreters during the time of the sale of merchandize, also a bath and

washhouse, and public gardens, and a house or court appropriated to the ottona, or chief officer of the street.

In the produce portion of the gardens alluded to, we saw growing the common red beet, and the carrot, lettuce, succory, endive, fennel, anise, dill, parsley, and asparagus, as also leeks, onions, yams, turnips, and radishes. The crops were at once abundant, healthy, and inviting, and winding footpaths, and beds of fragrant flowers, rich in blossom and luxuriant in form, enhanced the beauty of the picture.

We only remained about a quarter of an hour on the islet, during which time I exchanged a few words with a few Dutchmen, and we were both well stared at by the native officials. The doctor was bent upon botanising, he did not care about carrots or turnips however, he knew enough of them already; so we retraced our way across the bridge and made the best progress we could through the town towards the open country beyond, and some miles to the westward, where the hills were studded with shrines and temples, and the foliage on the mountains was sparkling in the sunshine.

There we found long ranges of sloping ground at the foot of the mountains planted with the sweet potato; further on, several kinds of yams were growing wild. Buck-wheat, beans (*Vicia faba* and *Phascolus*), and peas (*Pisum Sativum*), were also cultivated. Tobacco and capsicum, in one instance, presented a green and flourishing patch. Hemp and the aromatic acorns, the gingery *Amomium Mioga*, the *Mentha piperita*, and the *Alcea rosea*, grew up beside the bright flowers of the *Malva Mauritiana*. Then there was the *Celastius alatrus*, a branch of which, if left at the house of a young lady, has, in Japanese estimation, the power of making her fall in love with the gentleman gatherer. Then came the juniper tree, the bamboo and the box; even the familar ivy, as we proceeded higher, trailed along our path, in company with the *Smilax China;* wild figs, with a plum-like fruit, were there, and the pepper bush (*Figara peperita*) grew side by side with the pologonum.

I also observed a species of madder (*Rubia cordato*), and two species of nettles, the bark of which furnishes a kind of cordage, and the seeds an oil used in cookery. The yellow

flowers of the colewort (*Brassica Orientalis*), which is largely cultivated for the oil which its seeds afford, vied with those of the anise-tree, which latter are much used in religious ceremonies.

Camphor and varnish trees were sprinkled here and there, and the polished evergreen leaves of the *Cammelia sasanqua* contrasted with the emery foliage of the *Melea azedarach*.

Of the larger trees there was the *Thuja dolebrata*, tall, straight, and with leaves of a silver whiteness on their under side. We counted six peculiar species of maple, and several of oak. Cedars (*Cupressus Japonica*) flourished in great perfection.

The common barberry was there, loaded with blossom, as also the vaccinia and the wild pear-tree, with the roughest of leaves. Then came the *Oryris Japonica*, bearing its flowers at the middle of its leaves; the viburna, with double as well as single flowers; two species of spirea, the *Citrus Tripoliata* and the *Gardenia Floriola*, the seed vessels of which are used in the manufacture of yellow dye, and lastly, there was the dragon lily (*Arum Dracontium*), of which

we brought back with us a beautiful specimen. It was near sunset before we thought about returning to the ship, but we had wandered so far into the country, and found ourselves in such rich pasture, that we made the best use of the opportunities before us, and, as the moon was then full, we did not anticipate the prospect of losing ourselves, but worked on steadily during the whole day, without the slightest molestation or interruption, meanwhile having partaken with much gusto of the sandwiches and brandy which we had provided ourselves with before starting.

The declining sun was shedding floods of beaming light over the riant landscape as we threaded our way—followed by the two boys we had brought with us to carry specimens—across the prospect of hill and valley towards the outstretched bay of Nagasaki, that, as viewed from a commanding eminence over which we were passing, reposed like a golden shadow far in the distance, traversed by here and there a sail, and dotted with islets of perennial green, and overlooked by the rugged tops of mountains whose cultivated sides were dyed with the glorious tints of sunset. By the time we reached

the pier steps, the pall of night overhung the scene, the sky was a lustrous mist, and the moon with placid beams once more had decked the earth.

"How beautiful is night!" was my soliloquy. The boat was in waiting for us, so quickly, and with measured stroke, the feathered oars were bearing us away. Melodious sounds worthy of Italian nights floated softly from illuminated boats slowly gliding over the silvered tide. The picture resembled a scenic representation of fairy land.

Nagasaki was gay with lights; the feasting was not yet over. I thought of Noskotoska, and regretted that I had not spent my day in observing the city and the people, instead of leaves and flowers.

"The proper study of mankind is man." Why then had I forsaken him for vegetables? A bump against the frigate's side disturbed my soliloquy, and again I ascended the gangway ladder.

CHAPTER VII.

"GOOD-morrow," said I in English, French, and Dutch, so that Noskotoska might fully appreciate the force of my well-meant greeting, for the Japanese never wish each other good day, it being taken for granted that such wish is universal among men; their compliments are all of a general kind, and the sentences that apply to those of the morning also apply to those of the evening; the health is never enquired after, but allusion is made to bodily prosperity in the compliments which equals exchange when on familiar terms. This salutation was made on the deck of the frigate alongside of which Nos-

kotoska had just arrived in his gaily-decorated gondola-like barge.

He had come on board to see me. Would I sail round the bay with him, and then accompany him to his house? Of course I would. I should feel honoured, however, if he would step into the cabin and take a glass of wine—the captain would be happy to see him.

He acceded, so, with all possible politeness, I escorted him thither. The introduction was soon gone through, and a bottle of champagne imbibed, when we took our way together into the barge through a lane of kneeling figures. We seated ourselves on soft cushions beneath a gilded canopy at the stern of the boat; the graceful bamboo sail was then spread, and away we glided over the calm blue waters towards the miniature archipelago of the outer bay.

After a quarter of an hour's sail, we turned back, and steered direct for the Nagasaki landing-place. We ascended the steps, and were once more in the streets of the city.

"Yours is a beautiful clime to dwell in," said I.

"You do honour to Nipon," answered my

companion. "You cheer the spirit of him to whom you speak. But Nipon is not fairer than the great country from which you, my noble friend, first journeyed. Your island is small, but your deeds are great. How comes so much power and fame from so isolated a land?"

"Ah," said I, "England has planted her children far and wide over the countries of the earth, and the Anglo-Saxon tongue is spoken from pole to pole. Her banner floats over many remote lands, and her flag of liberty is borne over every sea. It is the enterprise and intelligence of her people that has lifted her so high in the scale of nations; it is that, with the freedom of her institutions, that still sustains her on the pinnacle of a virtuous power."

"You are favoured of the gods," said he, "to have had your origin in so good and renowned a land—I feel honoured and distinguished in the presence of one belonging to it."

I complimented him in equally flattering terms.

Of course I said nothing about Field Lane and the social system to Noskotoska. The same treatment does not answer for every patient, and I always make a point wherever I

am, of taking the weaker, or rather the least represented side. It is very candid on my part to make such a confession, but the fact is, when I am in New York I defend everything English with the most profound respect for my country, and not only that, but I have when there, so far criticised things American, as to have been rewarded with the titles, "Grumbler" and "Stickler."

I admit that this is not the way to make myself popular with the half-dozen whom I may have the pleasure of addressing, but I do thus on the principle that I have a great antipathy to backbiting, and being prejudiced on neither side, I have a genuine love of fair play. Broadway may be as good as Pall Mall, and *vice versa*. We all have our defects. Why then should the one usurp superiority over the other? When Broadway is attacked in Pall Mall, and Pall Mall is attacked in Broadway, I invariably side with the defendant in each case, anomalous though it be.—I am becoming conversational, let me fan myself again by the side of Noskotoska.

We threaded our way through a line of

gates, and after a walk of about fifteen minutes, were again passing through the lovely little avenue of fragrant orange trees into the porch, terminating in the drop-scene-looking wall before alluded to. The servant in gossamer was in his appointed place, looking as much of a saffron hue as before. He bowed his head low as we passed him, and took our way into the same saloon of audience.

It now presented quite another aspect to that described on my former visits, and this was owing to the sliding screens having been spread out; the room was now divided into three compartments reaching half way to the roof, and constituting the snuggest of nooks as well as affording the gayest of pictures to look upon, for they, the slides, were highly varnished and gilded, and covered with flowers and representations of the popular games, and sacred birds and animals of the empire, and were so scented, that a delicate aroma was being constantly diffused from them throughout the room.

Two trays, containing pipes and tobacco, and two diminutive silver braziers, holding burning, fumeless charcoal, were quickly brought in by a

male attendant I had not hitherto seen, but who, as regards costume, was an exact copy of his colleague in the lobby, and just as yellow. He retired, moving backwards, with his hands resting on his thighs, after the orthodox custom of the country, and in a few minutes afterwards returning with two other trays bearing each a fine lacquer cup, and a third tray, on which was the vase-like kettle of silver bronze, containing tea, he laid them down on the small light stools or tables which we had found already in the compartment at the time of our entrance, and then backed out again, as on the former occasion.

"Yes," said my host, resuming the conversation, "England is a mighty country—yours is a noble realm. I should like to journey thither, but I despair of ever gaining permission to do so. Our empire is an isolated one. You tell me of ambassadors being sent from France and Spain, and America; and of these, from all parts of the earth, meeting together in London; but those nations want something from you, and you from them; but in Nipon we have no such wants. Our country produces all that

is needful for us to consume. It troubles my soul to learn whether our empire would be better for association, more intimate than now, with the remote lands of earth. Your drinks and food might be injurious rather than beneficial to us; and your religion and much beside might find its way with the tide of commerce into our cities, and cause dissension among our people. Calamity and bloodshed, even to an overthrow of our reigning powers, might succeed, and Nipon might decline like the sun before the moon, and be shaken by the earthquakes of contention."

"You speak sadly—gloomily—perhaps truly, most noble Noskotoska, but England is righteous among nations, and would strive to maintain the cause of equity, and conduce to the good of your empire; for from her civilisation you might borrow new lights wherewith to adorn your own. Nipon is an empire that commands the respect of all nations. You are a great people, sufficiently powerful in your own might and wisdom to control the actions of the foreigners visiting your shores, and with which you might traffic. You would have command over their imports,

so that the drinks and the food of which you speak could be prohibited from entering the empire; and, by the exercise of that discriminative intelligence with which, as a people, you are so highly endowed, those things that you esteemed evil might be rejected, so that good would alone accrue to you from the intercourse. You would thus establish a name among the nations of the earth; and be conferring, by the tribute of your intelligence and manufactures, a benefit upon your fellow-men in other climes. The Dutch have not contaminated you—why should any other civilised nation?"

Thus spoke I to the pondering Noskotoska. There was no doubt about his understanding me; for, when he failed in doing so in English, I invoked the liberal aid of both Japanese and Dutch, the dictionary of those languages being at hand, in the event of any difficulty arising.

We had been for more than half-an-hour thus conversing, when the beautiful Sondoree—in other words, Mrs. Noskotoska—made her appearance.

She had just entered the house in company with a lady friend, who was then in another apartment.

Involuntarily I rose, bowed, and extended

my hand, the latter so suggestively, that Mrs. Noskotoska actually took hold of it, or rather in the uncertain endeavour to do so, approached it so closely, that I tenderly took hold of hers. I was delighted to see her. I hoped, with all the fervour of my nature, that the noble boys, her children, were doing well, and that she herself was doing likewise. I wished her the highest felicity ever awarded to mortal on earth, a highly orthodox Japanese compliment, and begged her acceptance of the few trinkets which I had provided myself with before leaving the ship, and which I then handed to her, encased in a small box which had been bought at Tunbridge Wells for sixpence. They consisted of a ring, a pencil-case, and a few charms, which I had bought from an Englishman at Hong Kong, for the purpose of giving away to the Japanese ladies. She was much pleased with them, and thanked me warmly; but with respect to the ring, she thought it emblematic of bondage, of fetters, and such like. I placed it on her second finger, and assured her that the ladies of England and America had no such scruple against wearing them, and that

such was a sign of rank and wealth rather than otherwise, although when the display of those or any other kind of jewellery was large and conspicuous, the taste was justly esteemed vulgar. Her hair to-day was no longer of such a length as to remind me of a bell-rope; it was wound into a compact coil at the back of the head near the crown, after the common style of wearing it; there it was fastened by two pins chastely carved, the one of tortoiseshell, the other of gold. Her appearance was so fair and beaming, that she would have awoke the admiration of many an unsmitten exquisite satiated with gazing on the beauty of a London season. Ladies, she was "a dear sweet creature," as guileless, as innocent, and as virtuous as she was lovely. She withdrew.

My host expressed his inclination for a bath. Would I like to enjoy a similar luxury? if so, my company in the water would afford him pleasure. Tapping the brazier before him with his fan, he summoned the attendant from the passage, to whom he communicated his desire. The yellow gossamer retired, bending as usual. My host followed immediately afterwards, and I with him,

across the apartment, through the open windows and garden to the bath-house, at one side of the entrance to which knelt the gentleman of the bath, a third male servant. He inclined his forehead to the ground as we passed him, and then, still kneeling, awaited the commands of his master.

There were two tanks or baths in the chamber, made of white marble, and both supplied with warm water. In a recess the buckets for holding cold water were suspended from a copper rail running across it. My host was quickly divested of his garments; I followed his example, and very soon we were dabbling and plunging about in five feet of water. I was in the act of emerging again from the bath, when the fair Sondoree—yes, reader, Mrs. Noskotoska made her appearance, and—oh, clouds and sunshine—with her lady friend by her side. There was no mistake about it, they had seen us go into the bath-house. They did not blush or turn back,—no, that was not to be expected from Japanese ladies. What was the best thing to be done? The lovely creatures were asking me how I liked the bath. I was almost dis-

posed to be vulgar and say, "None the better for seeing you," but its rudeness shocked my delicacy as much as did the presence of my host's wife and her virgin friend, for the teeth of the latter were white as polished ivory. So much the worse for me, I thought. Nevertheless, I mustered that quiet courage so necessary in positions of the kind, and composed myself. Why should I trouble myself about it, thought I, if they did not? They were the intruders, not I. What delightful consolation. Just then Noskotoska stepped out of his bath, and standing on a grating in the middle of the floor, ordered a couple of buckets of cold water to be thrown over him by the attendant. The water, through which a constant current had been maintained, was now allowed to run off,—it was but the work of a moment. Just then the thought struck me that the ladies, who were conversing together in one corner of the room, had come to immerse themselves, and that the longer I remained where I was, the longer one of them would have to wait. They would rather see me out of the bath than in it, I began to think, so out I stepped, in a manner as sprightly as even

that of Noskotoska. I narrowly escaped having two buckets of cold water dashed over me as I passed the attendant and proceeded to the *drying* ground, a small but open division at the upper extremity of the room. By this time the water from both tanks had been emptied, and they were being filled again with a fresh supply from the pipes leading into them,and, to my additional dismay, the ladies commenced undressing. They were divested of their apparel almost as quickly as was Noskotoska, their entire habiliments descending at a drop, on the sash, et cetera, being unbound. After that, they tripped lightly into the respective baths. I was dressed nearly as soon as my host, and we both left the apartment together, the ladies chatting to him as he went, and appearing to be in the enjoyment of the most perfect happiness.

Passing through the garden, we entered the same compartment of the saloon of audience, and were at once served with small glasses of old mellow saki, and a second edition of tobacco and burning charcoal. "You would like to see my library?" said Noskotoska, interrogatively. I expressed my desire affirmatively,

upon which he rose and led the way past the lobby attendant and through the passage to the left, passing the hall and drop-scene, into a room somewhat larger than the saloon of audience, and fitted up with rows of books resting on silver gratings of unique device on three sides of the room Thousands of volumes were here presented to me at a glance. Three stands, loaded with native drawings, maps, charts, and designs of various works of art, occupied positions in the centre of the room. With the exception of about a dozen Dutch, Chinese, German, and French works relating to Japan, and about half as many in the English language, exclusive of a dictionary of the Chinese and Japanese languages, a vocabulary of the English and Japanese, by Medhurst, and the two others already named, each compiled and published at Nagasaki, all these books were native. The greater part of their number consisted of romances and legendary tales; then came local histories and histories of the various emperors; then works on natural history, botany, and numerous treatises on the various sciences; then poems and plays, and a long cata-

logue which I am unable to classify. All these works were limited in their subjects and incidents to the inner life of the empire itself, as, indeed, might be expected from so comparatively isolated a people. The poetry and fiction, my host informed me, was the most popular description of literature; the latter afforded instruction combined with amusement, while as to the poetry, it elevated human thought and prompted noble actions; in its influence it never failed to purify and to exalt; it lifted man above the petty troubles attendant on his mortal career; it imbued his soul with holiness, and made wider the gulf between man and beast; it afforded solace and refreshment to the wearied traveller along the crowded highway of life; it was a balm in the midst of desolation, and embalmed thoughts and ideas which, like stars in the firmament, burned with a quenchless light.

Alas! for those toilers who earn their bread by an incessant mechanical toil, which allows them no opportunity for gaining intellectual nourishment, or whose tastes are so much of the earth-earthy, that they plod wearily through the long vista of their journey to corruption without

tasting of the elixir which it is the lot of the man of poetry to partake. Poetry of feeling, in its influence, is as a perpetual ray of light cheering and making glad the heart. It is the sunbeam of happiness, the sublime source of the most refined pleasure and happiness which it is the lot of man ever to feel. Poetry itself is the loftiest, the nearest divine creation of his genius—his intelligence. Such was Noskotoska's opinion, such is mine.

The works in the English language comprised a copy of Webster's Dictionary, — the second I had met with in Japan, — two cheap American reprints of popular English authors,* a cookery book published at Cincinnati, Golownin's Narrative, and a religious tract emating from the New York Methodists, and addressed to *the heathen*.

This was a literary hotch-potch which afforded me much material for comment. But I failed to distil much in the way of opinion from their possessor, save as to the dictionary, which to him was the most valuable of books. He in-

* Bulwer's "The Caxtons;" Reade's "Peg Woffington."

formed me that he was learning the dictionary, in order that he might be enabled to learn the other books afterwards. I congratulated him on his success so far, and wished him a happy consummation of his laudable task. I promised to add to his list of English authors before leaving the port, upon which he manifested much pleasure, and thanked me exceedingly.

I have before described Japanese books, and this collection of Noskotoska's offered no exception to the rule; the covers being all limp, and embellished with various characters and scenes, both plain black, and coloured, the binding being either of silk velvet or paper; and the common size a little smaller than our quarto, but thin, and light of weight.

We were still in the library, when the ladies, fresh from the bath, made their appearance before us. There was no blushing on either side. I knew the custom of the country; and, so long as the ladies liked it, I had no cause for complaint. I have a happy facility for accommodating myself to time and place, and the society into which chance or fortune may lead me. I conform voluntarily to the proverb which

makes allusion to Rome and the Romans. Thus, for instance, I smoked, and drank tea, and spoke with reverence of Father Buddha; none of which would have been practised by me, had not the habits of the Japanese suggested such. The act of taking a warm bath in the presence of witnesses, was another new feature in the order of things. But it was the custom of the country. What black is to us, white is to the Japanese, in more matters than mourning garments.

While we were standing together, one of the male attendants presented himself at the open doorway, and, kneeling, uttered a few words in a low tone, and then retired. It was an intimation that the mid-day repast was prepared, and in readiness. Noskotoska led the way, the ladies followed him, and I followed the ladies. Such was the order of procession. We ascended a flight of steps, beautifully lacquered, into a third room, richly gilded and bedizened with ornament, overlooking the avenue leading to the porch, and affording a glimpse of the street, and of the mountains beyond. Here were four small lacquered tables, on each of which lay the accustomed ivory chopstick, the small porcelain

cup for tea, and the larger one of lacquer-work for saki, the small glass cruet of soy, the porcelain spoon, and the silver fork.

The tables were arranged round the room, and two servants in gossamer showed the virgin lady and myself, as guests, to our appointed seats and tables. The former were without backs, but provided with three legs of ebony-wood, and topped with figured velvet. Both tables and stools were lower than I could have desired; and which had the effect of inducing me to extend my legs a more than usual distance across the room, nature having elevated me "pretty considerable" in the world—that is to say, some six feet or more above the standing level.

Our first course was a cup of saki; our second a small saucer-like plate of soup, and, of course, fish and rice soup; our third was the same, but made from a different variety of fish, and thicker than the first; the fourth was a fragment of lobster each; the fifth a well-flavoured pottage of fine herbs and rice; the sixth, a second supply of saki and pieces of wheaten cake; the seventh, one small, mucilaginous shell-fish each,

which was as suggestive of a snail as Mrs. Noskotoska's original mode of dressing her hair had been of a bell-rope, but which proved itself very delicious; the eighth and final course consisted of tea and confectionery, the last mentioned being the choicest I had ever eaten in any part of the world. The meal was, on the whole, light, as the reader may easily suppose. However, there was one cause for satisfaction; it was remarkably easy of digestion—so much so, that I felt disposed for a biscuit an hour after the last course was served; and I am by no means a cormorant.

After the collation was over we descended into the saloon of audience, and so on to the verandah, upon which its windows opened, and where we took our seats on the flimsiest looking of lacquered benches, and surveyed the beauties of the garden prospect before us. We had not been there above ten minutes, when I saw the two nurses before spoken of, bearing the two children of Noskotoska, threading their way down a side walk from the house towards the bathing saloon. The movement was similarly observed by the others. In about ten minutes more, during which time

we men had been served with tea and pipes and the ladies with tea only, my host rose, saying, "Come and look at my wife's offspring, the sons upon whom I rely for the perpetuation of my memory and the fame of my good deeds." I politely assented but had some fears that we should find them, as well as their nurses in a condition not the most presentable, according to European ideas. "*In puris naturalibus*," said I, with an air and look rather jocular than anything else.

Noskatoska's response was to the effect that such was no obstacle,—of no consequence whatever. They were all virtuous in Nipon.

So we set off, men and women, in the same order of procession as that adopted in moving from the library to the dining-room, winding our way through groves and flowers, and across hills and valleys, the varied scenery of the cultivated grounds, till we reached the bathing saloon. It was built with a conical roof, and spreading eaves of figured tiles, covering a compact matting of bamboo. On the conical summit of the roof, the figure of a crane cast in silver was gracefully perched. We entered, as I had anticipated, just in time to find the women and the children

occupying the two marble receptacles before mentioned. Each had one of the boys in her arms, whose head only was kept above water. However, they all appeared to be enjoying the immersion very much, judging by the giggling of the children, and the smiling laughter of their *life preservers*, for such they might reasonably be called, when the depth of the water was taken into consideration. The Japanese stood watching and admiring the pranks of the children, the adies not omitting to talk to them. The nurses, I found, were no more bashful than was their mistress, or were the rest of the ladies of the empire. But no harm was thought of it, no harm ever came of it, and I thought with Noskotoska that in Japan it was a matter of no consequence, perfectly orthodox, &c., &c., as well as a sign of that innocence, that virtue, which is an universal characteristic of the women of that eastern realm.

Here Noskotoska informed me for the first time, that his children—the two infant strugglers in the water—were already affianced to two even younger than themselves. He looked forward to their marriage with delight, and informed me that it was the custom to a

great extent among the higher and middle classes throughout the empire, for parents to affiance their children in infancy. He described the marriage ceremony.

On the appointed day of the wedding, the bride, arrayed in white, not as the garb of festivity, as the reader is aware, but of mourning, she being henceforth esteemed as dead to her parents, is carried in a *norimon* by eight of her father's chief servants or friends to the house of the bridegroom. Her mother and her father follow in other such conveyances. The norimon is met within the passage by the latter, when the bride extends to him her *marmori*, a silk bag containing an image, and supposed to act as a sort of amulet, which he then hands to his nearest attendant, who conveys it into the room prepared for the ceremony, and there suspends it from a staff placed for that purpose.

The bride then descends from her seat in the palanquin, and is led to the door of the grand apartment by the bridegroom, who then surrenders her to one of her waiting-women, who leads her to a throne erected in the centre of the room, where, being seated, two female at-

tendants, *i. e.* bridesmaids, take their places in a similar posture on each side of her. The bridegroom is then escorted from his own apartment, and ushered into her presence, followed by the mediator, a married friend appointed by the former, and his wife. No other persons are allowed to be present, the parents of the bride remaining in an adjoining room. The form of ceremony consists in drinking saki after a prescribed manner. The liquor is poured out by the two young girls from two jugs, to each of which is attached a paper figure of a butterfly, supposed to be male and female, and of the kind commonly to be seen flying in pairs; this is intended to signify that husband and wife ought always to be together. The drinking vessels are fine lacquer cups, placed on a tray one within the other. The bride takes the uppermost, and holds it with both hands, while some saki is poured into it from the vase represented by the male butterfly; she then sips from it three several times, after which, she hands it to the intended husband, who also drinks from it three times in the same manner. He then places the cup under the others, hands the se-

cond to the virgins, to be filled, and after drinking out of it three times, also passes it to the bride. She then sips out of it three times, puts it under the first one, and taking up the third cup, hands it to be filled likewise; when this is done, she sips again three times, and passes it to the groom, who repeats the same ceremony, after which he places the cup under the other two, and when this is done, the marriage ceremony is completed.

A signal is then sounded by the mediator, upon which the bride's parents are ushered into the presence of the wedded pair, and after them follow the male relatives of the bridegroom. Saki and confectionery are then handed round by the two young virgins to the members of both families, who, by thus partaking, extend, as it were, to each other the alliance already contracted between the principal actors on this occasion.

After this, the delivery of presents from the bride to her husband, as also to his relatives and servants, takes place. A list of these, together with a few of the least bulky articles, is then brought into the room, and placed before the

mediator, who reads the first aloud to those present. The bridegroom then presents his consort with two crape robes of the finest make, one with a red, the other with a black ground, both being embroidered with silk flowers, and designs in gold and silver.

Upon this the bride retires, followed by the virgins, and very soon re-appears arrayed in these robes, but only remains a few moments previous to being escorted by the mediator to another apartment, where she remains till her parents are ready to take their departure, when she joins her husband at the porch, and bids them an affectionate adieu.

As the bride does not leave her father's house till two hours after mid-day, it is usually past sunset before the latter take their leave. Later in the evening, the bridegroom proceeds with his parents, if they be living,—which is generally the case, the marriages taking place when the sons are about seventeen, and the girls fifteen—as also the mediator, when the drinking of saki and feasting is again gone through, the bride meanwhile remaining at the house of her husband, in company with her maids. On this oc-

casion, the father-in-law presents him with a sabre, and presents are usually made by the husband to his bride's relations. The festivities over, the son-in-law, accompanied by hi parents, take their leave, and returning home, are met at the porch by the bride herself. Illuminations sometimes accompany these proceedings.

The beds of the household are then prepared, and the bride is led by her maid to the nuptial couch, after which the groom is introduced. The bridal chamber is, in all cases, amply furnished with the numerous choice articles of the Japanese toilet, including a new wardrobe; the latter arranged on racks about the room.

The bride, amongst the higher classes, is usually portioned with twelve silk robes, each of which is placed on a distinct rack. These robes or dresses are of various colours, and beautifully embroidered, and are worn in prescribed and successive order over a space of as many months. The one allotted for wear during the first month after marriage, is a crape of a blue colour, embroidered with fir trees or bamboos; for the second month there is a sea green, gauzy silk

robe, embroidered with cherry flowers, and something very like buttercups; for the third month, the robe is of a light pink, a mixture of crape and silk, decked with willows and cherry-trees; and for the fourth month, a crape robe of a pearl colour, embroidered with a crown and an archipelago. Number five is a silk robe of faint yellow, decked with waves and blades of sword grass; number six, ditto of bright orange, with melons, and a foaming torrent; number seven, a white crape robe with *kiki* flowers, white and purple; number eight, a red crape robe, sprinkled with sloe leaves; number nine, a violet robe of silk, embroidered with flowers of the *Chrysanthemum indicum*, the latter very splendid. For the tenth month, the robe is of silk, and an olive colour, with representations of a public highway, and ears of gathered rice; for the eleventh month, a black one of silk, embroidered with the snow-capped summit of a mountain, and icicles; and for the last, and twelfth, a purple robe of velvet, with emblems of snow.

On the morning after the marriage, the young couple take a warm bath, and afterwards breakfast together. Soon after this, numerous pre-

sents usually arrive, and the bride receives visits of ceremony. After the expiration of three days, the bride pays a visit to her parents, preceded by a present from her husband, and one corresponding to which is sent back when the bride returns.

On the day following, the bride, accompanied by her mother-in-law, or some aged female relative, makes a round of calls upon all who have sent her presents—there is nothing done without presents in Japan, however trifling they may be — thanks them and offers a suitable return, a supply for this purpose having been provided for her by her own relatives.

Seven days after the wedding, the bride and her husband as also several of his intimate friends are invited by the parents of the former to a grand entertainment. A few days ulterior to this, the bridegroom invites the relatives of his wife to a similar entertainment, and when this is over, the wedding formula is complete, and things resume their wonted order, the young couple either remaining in the house of the bridegroom's father, or taking one to themselves, the latter being the more common proceeding of the two.

Noskotoska was speaking, with his large black eyes, bright and eloquent, fixed full upon me, as we stood together at the entrance to the bath house; the women and the children were still plashing about in the water, and the two ladies were within the saloon, talking to them.

"You have a beautiful garden," said I, changing the subject of our conversation from matrimony to flowers.

"Yes," said he, "it is fair to the eye, and pleasing to the mind. Yonder is the beautiful *tazolee*. My wife derives her name from that sweet blossom, but she is also beautiful. Tazolee," said he, turning to his wife, "come hither, fair flower, and let us wander through the shady groves and avenues, and inhale the perfume which they exhale, for *England* loveth such emblems of purity, and fair to his gaze is the blossom of tazolee. Come," said he, turning to me, for the ladies were already by his side, and leaving behind us the nurses who were in the act of flinging cold water over each other, we threaded our way through the shrubbery and the sunlight, till we reached an avenue of cypress and willow, in whose delicious shade

we seated ourselves on a bed of mossy turf, soft and dry as a Brussels carpet, and looked around.

All the beauties of the garden seemed to be unfolded before us at a glance; birds were singing, perched upon the branches; a Niagara in miniature was leaping sportively over blocks of granite resembling mighty crags, and had its *embouchure* in a lake alive with gold fish, and in whose centre was an island on which was built a castle of the most ingenious workmanship. Arches covered with flowering parasitical plants, and representing bridges, crossed the foot paths at intervals. Noskotoska's garden was a fairy land to look upon, and a very Eden to walk in.

"Ah! most noble sire," said I, "here you have leisure to cultivate and to enjoy the beauties of the earth, and better than all, you have the taste to appreciate the blessings and the fruits, which primitively are within the reach of man, and which still ought to be within the grasp of all, but which, alas, in the present state of society, in lands whose civilisation is European, are allowed but to few, and even then not untainted. How happy, most noble Noskotoska, is your lot on earth!"

"Yes," he observed, "I prefer my present state to my former one of a sea-gull, or yet my future one of a stork."

I was amazed.

"Sire," said I, addressing him, "my own thoughts recoil upon me. Do you believe in what you have just uttered—in the transmigration of souls—in—"

"Pardon me," he interrupted, in a jumble of Japanese and Dutch, which I had some difficulty in catching, so as to understand at the moment; "I spoke ironically. Such is the supposition with regard to the members of our family—it is legendary—it is mythological. I place no credence in the doctrine, but millions throughout the empire have undoubted faith in it. I, however, think it a delusion."

"Yes," said I, "and a very snare."

Soon after this we rose and entered the house, and the saloon of audience again, where tea and pipes were served once more. It was now near sunset, so I intimated to my host my desire to depart. Upon this, he expressed a hope that I would allow him the honour of accompanying me to the landing pier, whence his barge should convey me to the ship. I embraced his offer

with many thanks and expressions of obligation. One of the gentlemen in gossamer was forthwith signalled for, and despatched to the water-side, to have the barge put in readiness. Immediately after this we left the house, I having taken leave of the ladies in the European manner by shaking their hands, a mode of action just as foreign to them as it was familiar to me.

A laughable little incident, considering that it was Japanese, occurred at this juncture. The reader will remember my having suggested the ceremony to the fair wife on a former occasion, when it was so readily complied with, she was therefore already acquainted with the new mode of salutation; but with the other one, she only learned it a second previous to being herself called upon to do likewise, and that by seeing me shake the hand of her friend. This may account for her after-manner, for with an apparent disinclination to do things by halves, she extended both hands, and both hands were accordingly embraced. There was an unintentional and ingenuous exhibition of warmth about this, that awoke a smile on my part, which elicited a similar expression on their part, and so we parted, each looking wondrously happy.

"Why does that lady wear two girdles?" I asked, alluding to a red band, fixed a little below the ordinary silk sash of a fair pedestrian.

"Oh," replied my companion, in Dutch, "that is the *rikalo*, it is the sign of—(ask the midwife)—the Sintoos adopt it from the time of an outward manifestation of the invisible."

I thanked him for the information, the force of which I fully appreciated, yet I saw no reason why the Sintoos should wear a badge of condition nevertheless. Coming events cast their shadows before them, with a vengeance, in Japan. However, thought I, if the ladies are satisfied, I have no right to complain. Happy consolation!

We soon reached the landing-place, having passed by dozens of gay equestrians, with led horses, and crowds of slow pedestrians on our way. Noskotoska intended to take an evening ride. He had no desire to witness an exhibition of theatricals; the feasting after the first day of the three belonged to the vulgar only. He would be glad of my company on horseback, whenever I felt disposed.

I did not much relish the idea of being walked up and down the street, after the Japanese manner,

moreover it was time to go on board; nevertheless I could hardly have resisted the offer of a gallop into the country and up those hill slopes, where the doctor and I had so assiduously botanized on the previous day, had such presented itself.

The barge was in waiting to bear me to the ship; several of *ours* were on the pier and about to embark as, to their surprise, I followed Noska-toska down the steps. He would have a sail instead of a ride, and accompany me alongside. So to work went the sculls, spread was the square sail of light bamboo, and the gay craft glided swiftly o'er the tide, while the last hues of sunset were tinging the heavens, and making golden the waters, and decking the landscape of hill and islet with fantastic light, fitful as the beams of the uncertain moon, and varied as the rainbow of an eastern sky.

The gangway ladder was reached; I shook hands with my noble friend, and before I had gained the deck, his barge was again bearing him away to the city, now fast becoming faint in the twilight.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE morrow came, wet and misty at the dawn, but gradually clearing away, till at eleven o'clock it was fair and bright, but with a showery aspect. I took boat for the shore at that hour, with the direct intention of making a second, and more minute exploration of Dezaim, and ascertaining what the Dutchmen were like, who inhabited that dingy-looking factory ground. Crossing the bridge connecting the islet with the city, I entered the main street, and so on into the premises of the Dutch Company. Here I encountered a veritable Hollander, from whose

dingy appearance and peculiar look, I was disposed to believe, figuratively speaking, that

"Within his brain spiders their webs had wove."

He appeared to be lost in a chronic stupor, more profound, even, than that usually induced by lager beer, when assisted by the condiments of cheese and garlic. But a little conversation I found operated powerfully upon him, and every moment he became less drowsy. It was like the break of day; the gloom was being gradually yet quickly dispelled before the light of his brighter intelligence. I soon ascertained that he had been to Jeddo, and was one of the last embassy which had made the journey only four years before.* He was just the man, of all other Dutchmen in the world, that I most wanted. I expressed myself as unfeignedly glad that we had met, and hailed him as a brother European. He was satisfied apparently with my credentials, for he invited me upstairs into his apartments, which were as desolate to the eye as he himself had appeared when I first saw him. The furnishing was semi-

* The journey here alluded to was special, the periodical embassy having been previously discontinued.

Japanese, without the elaborate richness and neatness of their furnishings.

He invited me to be seated; and, turning to a side-board, drew forth a decanter containing about half-a-pint of brandy, and a Japanese porcelain jar of saki. To these he added two lacquer drinking-cups, two pipes, and a jar of native tobacco. He then sat down in front of a grate in which a slow fire was burning—the reader will recollect that the factory was built according to Dutch architecture—and invited me to smoke. I complied by filling a pipe with the noxious weed.

"You lead a very lonely life here," said I.

My companion grunted, and thought he did.

"How did you like Jeddo?" I asked.

He thought it very grand, and liked it very much. Would I take saki or brandy?

I chose the former, so did the Dutchman.

To my gratification, after two or three whiffs at his pipe, and the imbibition of a cup of what he called the native wine, he became talkative, and entered into a long narrative of his journey to the metropolis, which, being translated, reads as follows:—

TO JEDDO.

The first twelve miles' travelling from Nagasaki brought us to the shores of the Bay of Omura, which we crossed in boats, each rowed by fifteen watermen. The bay at this point was thirty miles wide. The city of Omura was seen to the right, at the head of the bay, and beyond it a volcanic chain, from a cone of which there rose up into the clear blue of the sky a thin column of smoke, that quickly wasted itself away in the midst of circumambient space. We reached Sanga, the capital of the province of Figen, on the second day. It is a populous city, with the most magnificent of castles, and the handsomest of streets; the women paint themselves more than is done at Nagasaki, and there is even more love of fashion and display among them than I have elsewhere seen. They pride themselves upon their resemblance to wax dolls, and esteem themselves, next to those of Miako, the handsomest women in Japan. This province, although less wealthy than that of Satsuma, is about the most fertile in the empire. It is particularly celebrated for ten varieties of rice,

one of which is reserved for the special consumption of the Emperor. The rice-fields that we saw were bordered with tea-shrubs about six feet in height; but, as they were stripped of their leaves, exhibiting only naked branches, they rather took from the otherwise luxuriant aspect of the landscape than enhanced its picturesqueness.

On the next day we entered the province of Tsicugo; and, having traversed a small but pleasant grove of cedars, we sighted the castle of the governing prince of that district, and passed by several coal-mines worked for the supply of the district. Cattle and horses were grazing in the neighbourhood.

In the evening we reached Kokara, the metropolis of Buigen, once famous, but now picturesquely dilapidated. The castle is of large size, of freestone build, and very massive. It had the customary tower of princely residences, consisting of six stories; and had a few embrasures pointing cannon. A river winds through the town, crossed by a bridge about two hundred yards long, but very shallow. Hundreds of boats were lying on the beach, at either side.

On leaving our tea-house, where we had stopped to dine, we found the square in front of it, as well as the bridge, crowded with spectators who had gathered to see us, and who were nearly all kneeling. We were now fifty-five native miles from Nagasaki.

Embarking in boats, we crossed the strait separating Ximo from Nipon—a width of more than three miles straight across, but more than twelve miles to the point for which we steered, namely, the town of Simonoseki. It is in the province of Naugato, and contained about a thousand houses. The harbour was full of junks, to the number of some three or four hundred; it being a port of call, as well as a place of considerable maritime importance. We here saw a temple dedicated to Amida, and built to appease the ghost of a young prince of the family of Ferji, so celebrated in the legendary annals of the Japanese, whose nurse, with the boy in her arms, is said to have thrown herself headlong into the strait, to avoid capture by his father's enemies, at the time of the capture and downfall of that family.

We made the voyage from Simonoseka to Osaka in four days; the junk anchoring each

night in one of the many natural harbours with which the coast abounds. Our route lay first through the strait between Ximo and Nipon, and then through the great strait separating Nipon from Sikoff, which was studded with clusters of beautiful islets. On the mainland, on either side, lofty mountains, with snow-capped summits, were presented to the eye in imposing magnificence. The junk, or rather barge, could proceed no further than Fiogo—a city of the province of Setz, and about the size of Nagasaki. Here we embarked in small boats for Osaka, sighting the city of Sakai on the way.

Osaka is picturesquely situated on the banks of a navigable river in the same province, and boasts of a population of a million. At its eastern extremity is a strong castle; and at the western end are two stately guard-houses of massive stone construction, which separate the city from the suburbs.

It occupies an area of about four miles. The river Jodogawa runs on the north side of the town, and empties into the sea a little below it. This river rises a day and a half's journey to the north-east, out of a midland lake in the

province of Umi, which lake is reputed to have been created in a night by the force of a violent earthquake, which swallowed up the ground which now forms its bed; two other rivers flow into the Jodogawa just above the castle, which are crossed by handsome stone and marble bridges. The united stream having washed the northern portion of the city, part of its waters are conveyed through a broad canal to supply the southern part, which is by far the most extensive and fashionable one. Numerous smaller channels cut from this artery pass through the main streets of the district, and deep enough for the passage of boats, so that goods may be brought to the doors of the merchants. More than a hundred bridges cross these streams, all of graceful, durable, and fantastic build, and constituting even in themselves a beautiful sight.

From the mouth of the main river up to Osaka, we passed more than a thousand boats, junks, and barges. The banks were raised on both sides by a series of ten or twelve retreating stone steps, so that a landing could be easily effected at any part of the entire length. Mag-

nificent metal, stone, and wooden bridges, decorated with grotesque carvings, spanned the river at every few hundred yards' distance, three of which were nearly as long as the space of remove from each other.

The streets of the city are regularly laid out at right angles, but somewhat narrower than Japanese streets in general. They were exceedingly clean and neat, and had their side walks paved with small square stones resembling tiles. There were the usual number of gates crossing the streets, which were closed at nightfall, when nobody was suffered to pass from one street to another without special leave from the Ottona. In every street there was the customary fire-house and water-engine, with a covered well attached. The houses were mostly two-storied, the rest, of course, being single. They all glittered with lacquer-work, and their interiors were bedizened with showy ornaments and gildings, the walls being hung with the same shining paper and covered with the same curious paintings of cranes and dragons, trees and flowers, as you may see in the city we speak in. The upper part of the wall, however, for some inches down from the ceiling,

was in general unoccupied, and merely painted of a plain orange or gold colour, the latter manufactured from earths, with which the neighbourhood plentifully abounds. The mats, doors, and sliding screens were all of the same size, namely, six Japanese feet long and three broad. The houses themselves, as also their several rooms, were built as elsewhere, according to the number of mats they were intended to contain. In the rear was the garden and bath-house.

Osaka is the theatre of much pleasure and public diversion. It boasts of a local army of a hundred thousand men, and manufactures the best of saki. The castle was built by Taiko Sama, and is of most massive and magnificent construction. In shape it is square, and has a circumference of about two miles. It is strongly fortified with round bastions, a feature peculiar only to Japanese architecture, but by no means an universal one. On the east and north sides its walls are washed by the river, while to the south and west it faces the city; its buttresses supporting the outer wall are two feet in thickness, but these, alike with the entire structure, are fast crumbling to decay.

Immediately after our arrival we were ad-

mitted to an audience of the governor of the city, to whose palace we were carried in kangos, attended by our whole train of interpreters and other officers. Entering at the main gate and crossing a parade ground some twenty yards in width, we came to the hall or guard-house, where our costume not befitting the august presence, we had each to invest ourselves in a silk robe of ceremony, lent us for the occasion by the chamberlain of the household. Four soldiers on duty stood near us, and eight other officers were seated in front of them. The wall adjoining and on our right was fitted with receptacles for arms; fifteen halberds, twenty lances, and nineteen pikes were there arranged in their proper order. The weapons were all of the finest make, and elaborately carved and ornamented. We were conducted from this in our new apparel by two of the governor's secretaries, through four apartments formed out of one large room by means of sliding screens, and whose walls were hung with military weapons, into the saloon of audience, and were invited to be seated in front of a recess arranged for the governor, and capable of being entered through

a private doorway at its inner extremity. Tea was served in the presence of the imperial officers assembled, and very soon a light screen was drawn aside within the recess, and the governor entered, bowed, and seated himself. He appeared to be about forty-five years of age, and some five feet nine inches in height, and of firm, stout build, active of limb, and with a broad, masculine face, bright with intelligence. The conversation which the officers had been carrying on with us ceased as, preceded by the usual hish! hish! hish! the chief entered his divan. He was clad in black, but covered with a gauzy cloak of pale yellow crape. He said, in Dutch, that we were the most favoured of foreigners in the empire of the great Mikado, and that the honour of our being allowed to visit his metropolis was a very high one, and which it was impossible to overrate, and which was allowed to none but the Dutch. He offered us whatever supplies we might require, and said that our passports would be in immediate readiness. In reply we thanked him, and begged his acceptance of a small present of European curiosities. The governor upon this also thanked us, rose,

bowed, and departed through the doorway by which he had entered, after which we were conducted back to the guard-house. Here we took our leave of the officers, re-entered our kangos, and returned to our hotel—the tea-house.

On the following morning we set out soon after dawn, in resumption of our journey to Miako, which city we intended to reach before sunset. We emerged from Osaka by the bridge of Kiobas, which crosses the river just below the castle. We then rode by the walled banks of the Jodogawa river, which lay on our left, half hidden by a line of lofty Tsadamia trees, whose branches were hung with yellow seed-pods, the oil of which is an article of internal commerce. The country was everywhere thickly peopled, the numerous small towns running into each other so as to constitute one continued street from Osaka to Miako.

We passed through the celebrated city of Joda, from which this river derives its name. It is entirely surrounded by the arms of the streams alluded to, which are crossed by bridges, and is much cut up with canals, so much so, as to remind me of Holland. In approaching it we rode across

one suburban street about two miles long, towards a handsome bridge of marble, called Jodobas, four hundred feet in length, and supported by forty arches, all decorated with elaborate carvings. At the end of this bridge was a single, well-guarded gate, through which we entered the city. The streets and houses we found to be of handsome construction, the former being about forty feet in width, and the latter two-storied, and each encircled by beautiful gardens. On the west side of the city stood the castle, recently rebuilt, and standing in imposing magnificence upon a high foundation raised in the centre of the river, the building itself being cornered with stately towers of several stories, overlooking which there was a central one, from which rose a thin column of silver. Crossing the city, we reached another bridge, a little more than half the length of the last one, and supported by twenty arches, as finely sculptured as the others. Passing over this, we approached another gate and guard-house, also denoting the limits of the town, and through which we emerged into the suburbs again.

Two hours after noon, and after a ride of

more than an hour and a half, we entered the suburbs of the town of Fusimi, itself a suburb of Miako. Here one continuous street extended into the great city. That street we were now in, and remained in, too, riding all the time, for more than five hours before reaching the metropolis, such was its length.

People were abundant, and public diversions were going forward, more or less, along the entire way.

Miako wore a very animated and illuminated aspect, and the hotel, or tea-house, to which we proceeded, was crowded with pleasure-seekers. Our presence attracted but little attention. It being the *Zetas*, or first day of the month, special services were going forward in all the temples, and there was much feasting and holiday making. The women were all richly attired, but as neat as usual. Jugglers and clowns were performing in theatrical houses open to the street, so that all passers-by as well as those within might behold. I saw one man spin a sort of peg-top in the air from a string which he had coiled round it, and which top he caught on the edge of a sword which he held in his hand before it had time to reach the

ground, and which he made run to and fro along the edge from the hilt to the point, finally poising it there, then jerking it up in the air several times, and causing it to alight on each occasion on the same sharp extremity. Then there was another performer, who stood up empty-handed, facing and surrounded by the spectators, and while all looked on, a large vase of flowers gradually rose up as if from an aperture in his skull, while a third was transformed, without any apparent cause, into three different characters in as many minutes; first, into a dragon, then a lion, and next into a large animal resembling a rhinoceros. I think that his dress, previously arranged, must have been worked by some sliding machinery which he controlled by an occasional jerking movement of the body, and that the great enlargement of size in the last character was either done by springs or the agency of some prepared gas hitherto pent up being brought in contact with the atmosphere, or a chemical influence hitherto secreted and involved in the dress and so producing inflation. Nobody, however, seemed to be wiser than ourselves as to how these things were done, but we thought them wondrously strange.

Some temples which lay to the right, along the ascent of a neighbouring hill, were brilliantly illuminated with many-coloured lamps, while the striking of their bells resounded harmoniously in the twilight.

At about eleven o'clock on the following morning, having meanwhile enjoyed ourselves at the tea-house, where each had a small compartment allotted to him as sleeping quarters, we were waited upon by an officer, followed by a train of attendants and horses, upon which latter we were invited to bestride ourselves. This officer represented the governor of Miako, to whose palace, situated at the north-west end of the city, and opposite the imperial castle, we were invited to proceed. So off we went, each man's horse being led by an attendant as demure-looking as his attire was picturesque.

We reached our destination, and having dismounted, were conducted through a court-yard thirty feet in breadth, into the hall or guard-house, the common rendezvous of nearly all the officers of the household. Hence we were taken through two other rooms into a third, where we were invited to be seated. Soon afterwards in

came the chief secretary of the governor, to receive, in the name of the latter, our names and whatever else we might have to offer in the form of compliments or presents. He was a fine-looking man, in about his sixty-second year, clad in an ash-coloured robe of ceremony; and he politely thanked us in the name of the governor for our few presents and kind inquiries. Tea and pipes were now brought in and served to us. After the lapse of a quarter of an hour the audience was over, and the chief secretary himself conducted us again to the gate, followed by his attendants, and thus our visit ended. This, it appeared, was the palace of the relieved governor, who was absent at Jeddo, the secular capital, in the enjoyment of his vacation.

From this we proceeded on foot to the palace of the second and relieving governor. Four sentinels stood on duty at the gate, and the hall was occupied by about sixty people, mostly officers of the household, the rest being messengers and merchants in waiting for various purposes of their own.

Through this hall we were conducted into a side apartment, where we were politely received

by two secretaries of the governor, the invariable pipes and tea following immediately afterwards. We remained here nearly an hour, by which time we had expressed our impatience and been assured that the time of audience was near at hand. Then we were conducted into the grand saloon, where, after a few moments had elapsed, the folding screens of a divan were thrown back, and the governor appeared seated before us. He wore the usual light robe of ceremony over his black dress, and was of robust, but prepossessing appearance, and about thirty years of age. He greeted us simply with a bowing inclination of the head, and after uttering a few words of congratulation through his interpreter, the screens were again drawn forward by the two officers stationed on either side, and the interview was over.

We, however, remained in the saloon for nearly an hour after this, during which time we had a second edition of tea, and were favoured with the presence of several ladies, whose costume in magnificence far excelled anything that we had seen at Nagasaki.

From this we were conveyed in imperial kangos direct to our hotel.

Miako stands in the province of Jamatto, and occupies an extensive plain, encircled by hill and mountain ranges. The city approaches nearest the mountains on the east side, on whose slope and along whose base stand the numerous temples, monasteries, colleges, and other religious and educational edifices extending for miles.

Three rivers rolling down from the hills traverse that portion of the city; the largest of these has its source in Lake Oitz, and the two first, uniting at one particular point, are crossed by a marble bridge four hundred feet long.

The Mikado's palace is of immense size, and surrounded by dykes and walls, aloof from the rest of the city, and near it there is a large stone fortress or castle, available for the royal residence if required, but now placed at the disposal of the Ziogoon on the occasion of his visits to the emperor. It is guarded by a wide moat, crossed by bridges, and has a circumference of nearly four thousand feet. Sentinels are constantly on duty at the gates, both during its occupation by, and in the absence of, the royal guest.

The streets of Miako, alike with those of all

other Japanese cities, are regularly built, and cross each other at right angles; they are all several miles in length, and present a very animated appearance, owing to the number of loungers, pedestrians, equestrians, and dogs, as well as the gay look of the shops, houses, and gardens, which line both sides of the way. The habitations are nearly all two-storied, and either of tastefully carved wood or stone.

On the morning following the interview with the governors, we asked permission to view some of the temples, and accordingly we were escorted to several of them. The first one was approached by a broad gravel walk, about half a mile in length, bordered on both sides with the stately dwellings of the priests. At this walk we alighted from our kangos, and passing through a high-arched gateway, ascended a flight of silver steps to a large terrace, finely gravelled and planted with trees and shrubs.

Entering by a handsome porch, we followed our Japanese leader up a beautiful lacquered stairway, leading into an inner court, fronting a magnificent building tastefully and elaborately ornamented with carvings in gold, silver, and

lacquered work. In the middle of the outermost hall was a shrine containing a large idol with curled hair, surrounded by smaller images. On both sides were other shrines, but smaller and less elaborate than the one just alluded to, and at the extremity of the hall were located two apartments for the emperor's use, their windows opening upon a beautifully cultivated garden, beyond which lay the slope of a natural hill, green with verdure, and well timbered. From this courtyard there was an opening into another courtyard, leading into the great hall of worship, but into that we were not admitted.

Leaving this, we were conducted across a square to another such sanctuary, of a massive build, surrounded by a gallery, and supported by fifty-six silver pillars, ten feet in height, each of which were carved after the usual Japanese manner, with the heads of elephants, dragons, and things mythological. The most striking feature of this building was its bended roofs, four in number, and rising over each other in succession, the lowest and largest of which spread over the gallery. The interior was a handsome vault, richly gilded and lighted with many lamps. In a courtyard out-

side of the building, was hung a large bell, near which rested a hammer of beechwood, used for striking the tones.

From this we took our way to another and larger one, which was encircled by a high granite wall. A silver staircase of ten steps led up to the gateway, on each side of which stood a colossal image about twenty-five feet in height. The one to the right, which wore an aspect of perfect repose, had the face of a lion and the body of a man, and was coloured black and purple. That on the left resembled the human figure, and betokened energy, with open mouth and extended hand. They were both resting on stone pedestals, six feet in height, and were said to be emblematic of the two first principles of nature, the active and the passive, giving and taking, opening and shutting, generation and corruption.

Within the gateway were sixteen stone pillars, used as candelabras and founts; while inside of the enclosing wall was a spacious walk or gallery opening towards the inner courtyard, but covered with a roof which was supported by two rows of pillars about eighteen feet high, and

twelve feet distant from each other. Directly opposite the entrance, in the middle of the court, stood the temple, a very lofty structure, with a double roof, supported by ninety-four pillars of brass, each nearly ten feet in diameter. In its interior the floor was paved with square red tiles. There were many small window-like recesses leading up to the first roof, but the edifice, with its lofty, dome-like ceiling, was very faintly lighted from without. It was unoccupied, and two lamps only burned dimly in front of the altar.

The next object of interest after the latter was a gigantic idol; it was of wood, and in a sitting posture, supported by an equally proportioned lotus flower, cast in brass, and displaying in its tints much metallochromic skill; the stem of this flower descended several feet to the ground, where it became lost in its own foliage. The idol, which was richly gilded, and variously ornamented, had long ears and curled hair, just revealed beneath a sparkling crown. A large red spot on the forehead was emblematic of something which I failed to comprehend. The shoulders, which were naked, were so broad as

to reach from one pillar to another, a distance of thirty feet. The right hand was elevated, while the left rested on the thigh.

This was an image of the great Buddha; the body was seventy-seven and a-half feet high, and the entire statue, with the lotus, ninety feet, such being also the height of the building.

The next temple which we entered was of great length, but disproportionate breadth. Occupying a central position in its interior was a colossal idol in wood, highly coloured and ornamented, and furnished with the prodigal allowance of thirty-six arms. Sixteen black images, all larger than life, stood round it in a circle, while on each side were two rows of gilded idols, each of which was distinguished by the possession of twenty arms. On both sides of the temple, running from end to end, were ten platforms, rising amphitheatrically, on each of which stood fifty images of a life size of the colossal idol below. There the thousand twenty-handed statues stood, each on its separate pedestal, and arranged in rows of five, one behind the other, and all visible. On the hands and heads of all these were placed smaller idols,

to the number of forty each, so that the array was the most extensive as well as the most brilliant of the kind that I had ever seen.

We only visited one more, and that was smaller than any of the others. The grand portico of the outer wall is denominated *the gate of the two kings;* and by this we entered. In the vast interior of the building, which is eighty-four feet high, appeared, on either side, a colossal figure, twenty-two feet in height, representing two kings sacred in mythological history. In an edifice adjoining this, was suspended an immense and elaborately-carved bell, measuring eighteen feet from the shank to the lip, and at one time, if not now, the largest in the world.

This temple is celebrated for a tomb in which were buried the ears and noses of the Coreans who fell in the war carried on against them at the close of the sixteenth century, the said noses and ears having been pickled with salt on the Corean shores for the sake of their preservation, and so imported into Japan, and interred as war trophies.

Miako is a city of great commerce, and the seat of large and ingenious manufactures, as

well as being a great university and home of fashion. It is the great book-printing and publishing city of the empire, and the occasional resort of the most learned men. Silks and crapes are wove, and copper is refined there on a large scale. The imperial mint is there, and metallurgists' shops are numerous, exhibiting a great variety of gold and silver flowers, and rare works of the jeweller's art. The best and scarcest dyes, the most elaborate sculpture and engraving, all sorts of musical instruments, pictures, lacquered cabinets, swords, and other weapons and instruments of steel, automatic figures, conjuring apparatus, imitations of every non-perishable thing European ever imported into Japan, materials for scientific and other games, toys, and the finest and best embroidered robes of any in the empire, besides all those manufactures common to the other cities of the empire, which it would occupy hours to merely name, are all wrought and manufactured at Miako. And, withal, it is a city of proud nobles delighting in gaiety and pomp, where fashion and beauty congregate together, and the machinery of government and society works easily, and

every cog in its mighty wheel is emblematic of peace and contentment.

We left Miako on the third morning following our arrival; and, after a ride of about ten miles, entered the town of Oitz, situated at the south western extremity of the large lake of that name. The view was bounded by a panorama of snow-capped mountains, and the hill sides were decked with numerous shrines, while along the base of the range the stately forms of more than a hundred temples rose up before our astonished gaze.

Emerging from the town, we crossed a magnificent suspension bridge spanning the Jodogawa —the river before-mentioned as having its source in this lake—and supported at either end by stone columns. Continuing on our way, we next passed through the village of Minoki, famous for the sole manufacture of a medicine of great repute, said to have been found out by a poor but pious man, to whom the god of physic—Jacasi—revealed in a dream the ingredients—the latter consisting of certain bitter herbs grown upon the neighbouring mountains. This story so promoted the sale of the medicine that the dreamer soon became wealthy, and enjoyed a

notoriety to which that of Holloway's pills may be supposed to bear but a very faint resemblance. He erected a temple opposite his shop, and adorned and dedicated it to the honour of Tacusi, and enclosed within which was a large gilt statue of the said god exhibited in the act of treading upon a Terete flower, and wearing the scollop-like shell of a fish as a helmet.

On the next day we crossed the Dsatsi Tama, a mountain ridge so steep that its descent was like that of a lighthouse-staircase. On this mountain there were many shrines and temples; crowds of pilgrims from all parts of the empire, journeying to Isje, situated about forty miles to the south, here crossed our path.

We struck the sea-coast at Jokitz, and after a further travel of nine miles, entered the city of Quano, in the province of Voari, situated at the head of a deep bay. It consisted of three divisions, the first and third being surrounded by moats and high walls, and the other and lower part being locked in by numerous small rivers. The castle walls were washed on three sides by the open bay, and were separated from the town on the other side by a deep moat, spanned by draw-bridges. At the latter place we dis-

missed our horses and kangos, and travelled by barge down the bay to Mia, distant about fifteen miles. This city, though not so large as Quamo, had about three thousand houses, with two magnificent palaces, and a fortress of immense size and strength; also many stately temples, in two of which are deposited the eleven miraculous swords—three in one, eight in the other—reputed to have been used by the race of demigods who first peopled Japan, three thousand years ago.

At this town we passed the night, and resuming our journey on the following morning, reached Okasaki by noon, a town with about two thousand houses, a castle, and several large temples, lying at the head of a bay of that name. After this, we rode through several considerable places, of which Tosida, with a castle, temples, and fifteen hundred houses, was the most considerable, and where we again halted at a tea-house for the night, at which no fee or reward was ever accepted, or indeed offered, in return for our entertainment.

We set out again on the next morning, and after riding some fifteen miles came to Ha-ra, with about five thousand houses, and

having a fine harbour. We crossed the latter in boats, and on the other side we followed the road through a rather flat country, studded with rice fields and villages, as far as the town of Kakegawa. A fire had just broke out as we entered, and all was uproar and confusion. Very soon the whole town seemed enveloped in flames.

We, however, took our way to windward, and found our quarters at a tea-house, on an eminence surrounded entirely by leaping cascades. The fire burned till near midnight, nearly half of the houses in the place having been by that time destroyed. However, hospitality was liberally extended, and the ejected found food and rest in the dwellings of their neighbours. On the next morning we took kangos and crossed a steep mountain, descending on the opposite side to the shores of the Ojingawa river, which was then so shallow and rapid that a boat could not cross it, so that we had to ford it, or rather the Japanese, our bearers, had, for we sat very peacefully in our palanquins, admiring the scenery.

From this we followed the road along a well-cultivated, well-villaged country, as far as the

city of Seruga, the capital of the province so called. The streets, as usual, were straight, and crossed each other at right angles; they were of the widest kind, and lined with gay shops, and two-storied dwellings, with their trim and tasteful gardens, and traversed by richly-dressed crowds of pedestrians, and a few men on brightly caparisoned horses, the latter with their plaited and tufted manes hanging gracefully down the neck, so that the whole scene was as animated as it was pleasing. Paper stuffs, curiously flowered in the form of hats, baskets, and boxes, as also similar articles in lacquered ware, together with those things already mentioned as exhibited at Miako. Here, too, was a local mint for the coining of itzabus and kobangs. The governor's palaces were of stone, and encircled by the usual wall and moat, and spanned by drawbridges. In the adjoining Bay of Totamini, there was a large dockyard and station for war junks, near which were several batteries, and fortresses reputed to be impregnable.

Here we passed the night, and on the next morning followed the road inland for the purpose of crossing the great but shallow river,

Fusiyama, which has its rise near the snow-capped mount of Fusiyama, and its embouchure near the head of Totamini, otherwise Seruga Bay.

We crossed it in a handsome barge, used as a ferry-boat at that point. Here the sacred mountain towered above us high and stately, far into the mid-day void, its cone piercing the azure blue of the heavens, and its rugged sides, blue as indigo, sparkling in the splendours of the flashing sky. Yes, here before us, loomed the mighty Fusiyama. The Japanese cannot find colours bright enough, or language grand enough, to paint the magnificence of Fusiyama. It used to be frequently, and still is occasionally, ascended by pilgrims for the worship of the god of the winds: the ascent occupying three days, and the descent only as many hours, owing to the use of reed sledges, which in winter glide over the snow, and in the summer over the sand which covers its slopes. After crossing the river, we continued our way in kangos through the mountainous country of Gacone, which runs out in a southerly direction from the broad peninsula of Idsu.

At a small town hemmed in between a lake and a mountain, the lake itself in every other direction being surrounded by precipitous mountains, was a narrow pass, where imperial officers were stationed, and our passports were *vised*. There were about a dozen shrines and temples in the neighbourhood, and much dinging of bells and no small array of shaven-headed priests, who emerged from their consecrated dwelling to behold us.

This lake had but one outlet, and that was in the form of a cataract rolling over the mountains, and hurrying through over a rocky bed in the centre of a dell-like valley, along which our road wound as far as the mouth of this said river in the bay of Jeddo. Here we came to the town of Odowarra, beautifully situated on an extensive plain. It contained about two thousand houses, and was built in the form common to the Japanese towns already described. The palace of the governor, as also the numerous shrines and temples of the place, were situated on the north side of the town, and along the base of the mountains. We passed the night at one of the tea-houses here, and on the following

morning set out early, following the road lying along the north-west shore of the outer bay of Jeddo, crossed several bridges spanning streams, till at length the mountains to our left disappeared, and we found ourselves on a thickly-villaged and well-cultivated plain, extending to Jeddo.

Off the shore we saw the island of Komotura, its high and rocky shores reminding us of the captives therein held, for to it the disgraced nobles of the empire are banished; for this reason it is unprovided with a landing-place, all intercourse and supplies being received by the agency of a hoisting crane.

Soon after this, the road crossed a promontory separating the outer from the inner bay of Jeddo, and before sunset the shore of the inner bay was reached. The country now became exceedingly populous, an almost continuous line of towns and villages intersecting our path. We halted at Kanagan, a flourishing little town of about a thousand houses, and distant twenty-four miles from the capital.

The latter, a sort of outer suburb of Jeddo, consists in chief of one long street, having

a bay on the right and a hill on the left, which was nearly covered with shrines and temples.

Several narrow streets led from this main thoroughfare to the upper part of the town, which displayed the usual neat two-storied houses, gardened and verandahed. The temples were stately, highly decorated, and spacious buildings, occupying positions as picturesque as themselves. They were adorned within with large gilt idols, and without with carved images of gigantic size, the latter approached by gates of unique construction and staircases of stone. One of them was remarkable for a magnificent tower five stories high.

After riding more than two miles along the main street of Kanagawa, we stopped at a tea-house, whose windows and balconies commanded an extensive view of the bay as well as of the harbour and city of Jeddo, embracing thousands of junks, barges, and boats, and an exciting panorama of house-tops, temples, and palaces glittering grandly in the sunlight. The smaller craft lay well in with the city, but the junks were moored at the distance of

from two to five miles, owing to the shallowness of the water. A mile further on, we came to a gate and guard-house, which denoted the limit of Kanagawa and the entrance to the suburban precincts of Jeddo. The bay here approached so near the foot of the hill, that one row of houses alone intervened between it and the road, which latter for some distance ran along its margin. Afterwards, however, it widened considerably, and lined as it was on both sides with beautiful villa-like residences, it presented quite a different aspect, at once gay and animated. Crowds of happy-looking pedestrians and equestrians moved slowly to and fro everywhere. Diverging from this, we entered the great central street, which runs northward and entirely across the mighty city, passing over several stately bridges laid across small rivers and canals, which had their embouchure in the bay. The traffic along this street, which was about a hundred and thirty feet broad, was immense, and, from the absence of wheeled vehicles, had a peculiar effect. The whole scene was splendid and half bewildering; such magnificence combined with activity I had never before witnessed;

but for ten miles this same street was just as animated and as thickly built along. It was a wondrous sight that Broadway of Jeddo. We passed by several princes in norimons, each preceded and followed by a numerous retinue, as also ladies in similar conveyances, and arrayed in the most magnificent costumes. The shops were all handsome structures, with attractively arranged wares in their open fronts: druggists and booksellers, robemakers and drapers, idol-mongers and glass-blowers, goldsmiths and picture-dealers, merchants and agents, and a hundred others, were all presented in rapid succession.

No one seemed to heed or care about us; we appeared to be the most insignificant of groups as we rode past two miles of shops and fifty cross streets, and were conducted by our chief guide, from Nagasaki, to the right along a street crossing the great thoroughfare at right angles, in which we turned our horses' heads into the court-yard attached to a large and handsome tea-house, at which we were destined to fix our quarters.

The river, two of whose branches we had

already crossed, rises to the westward of the city, and sends off a considerable arm, which encompasses the castle, and thence falls into the harbour in five distinct streams, each of which is distinguished by a particular name, and spanned by a massive bridge of stone, chastely ornamented. The largest of these, Niponbas, or the bridge of Japan, is two hundred and fifty feet in length, and is famous as the point from which distances are computed throughout the island. The local government is the same as in the other cities of the empire, two governors commanding in rotation, while the number of mayors and ottonas are in the same proportion to the streets and houses as they are elsewhere. The palace of the Ziogoon, or secular emperor, was situated near the centre of the city, where its grand old walls of stone, extending in a somewhat circular form, occupied a circumference of about twelve miles. Within, it had three distinct divisions, each walled in and surrounded by a moat with drawbridges. The first and outermost division, consisting of a series of palaces built in rows, and forming streets, covered a large space of ground, and was appropriated to the reigning

princes of the empire while in Jeddo, and to their families, a separate palace and court-yard being assigned to each. The second division extended over a much smaller space of ground than the one just mentioned, but was invested with more show of pomp and a more numerous military guard. In it resided the highest and most powerful class of imperial officers constituting the supreme council of princes of the empire, a sort of House of Peers, but more limited in the number of its members. The third division, in which the Ziogoon had his residence, occupied a slightly elevated site, and was more strongly fortified than the others, its walls being furnished with tall towers, which gave an ornamental look to the exterior.

I may here mention that all these divisions and palaces were of stone, and as massive in appearance as they were picturesque. The masonry was held together by ribs of iron and brass without mortar, in order that the structures might the more firmly hold together against the shocks of earthquakes; and the carvings were of the most elaborate kind. From the centre of this palace a square tower of white marble

rose high above the surrounding architecture, and called forth the admiration of every beholder. It was four stories high, and adorned with as many eaves and other picturesque designs. The appearance of this division was magnificent beyond description; dragons in gold or some such device surmounted every corner and projection of the citadel-shaped buildings.

There were two small side castles within this enclosure, where the infant princes and princesses of the empire, being children of the Ziogoon, were housed and educated. In the rear of the imperial residence were extensive and beautifully cultivated gardens, extending over a rising ground, which were bounded by groves of venerable cedar and plane trees, stretching along the summit of the hill.

On the morning after our arrival, we were furnished with black silk robes of ceremony, and escorted from our hotel by four officers of the third governor of Nagasaki, then at Jeddo, and their attendants; we rode to the imperial palace there, to have an audience of the emperor. Passing through the grand entrance, we found the entire way lined with halberdiers,

arrayed in a blue and crimson uniform of silk, and presenting a most brilliant and imposing appearance, each having his two silver and gold mounted swords in their appointed sheaths within the sash.

After proceeding about two miles, we came to the Fiakniabin, or great guard lodge of the palace. Here we alighted and left our horses and servants, who were conducted away to appointed quarters, there to await our return after the audience. We were at once ushered into the saloon of the guard house and the presence of the two captains of the guard, the latter consisting of a hundred men, who politely received us, standing, and with much bowing, after which tea and pipes were served. They informed us in Dutch, that as soon as the great council of state met, we should have an audience. It was not long before a herald arrived to announce the imperial presence, and who, with his train of attendants, conducted us through two gateways, the gates being of metal, uniquely carved and gilt, and thence across a square lined with troops in a black silk uniform, to the chief entrance hall of the imperial residence, which was ap-

proached by a few long steps made of numerous small and many-coloured stones, polished like diamonds. From this we were conducted up two others into a spacious apartment, forming an elevated continuation of the hall. This was the waiting-room. Its walls and screens, and ceiling and the pillars supporting it, were all brightly gilded and tinted with the most beautiful of colours. The matting on the floor was fringed with a peculiar embroidery of gold, and the windows, which, when closed, admitted but a sombre light, were decorated with figures in the highest style of native art, so that in aspect it was altogether brilliant. We remained here, seated on blue velvet ottomans, for about a quarter of an hour, when a herald entered, and exclaimed, "Captain of the Dutch!" upon which, that personage followed him into the presence of the council, while we still remained in the waiting-room. The ceremony of audience lay simply in his crawling "on all fours" to the foot of the throne, and there bending his forehead till it touched the ground, after which he performed a retrograde movement out of the room again, in just the same position, his face still being di-

rected towards the emperor, who spoke not. This is the common ceremony, performed in exactly the same manner by all the princes of the empire.

Our captain described the scene within the hall of audience as the most grand and majestic he had ever witnessed: the thousand mats with which it was covered, each bordered with gold—the imposing array of high officers of state, the impressive silence and the brilliant decoration and gilding of the ceiling, walls, and windows, and above all, the magnificence of the throne itself, and the solemn majesty of its sovereign occupant, contributed together to make the spectacle, in the eyes of a crawling man, the "observed of all observers," as something approaching the awful.

After the return of our headsman, we were conducted along a passage running to the left, as we emerged through the doorway of the waiting-room: from this we were led through several compartments into a gallery curiously carved, gilded, and coloured. Here were several physicians and priests of the household, who at once entered into conversation with us. From

this we were again led through several other galleries having windows of coloured glass instead of painted paper, our path being lined the entire way with standing troops clad in black silk, and bearing an avenue of symbolic staffs, richly lacquered and gilt, but not unlike barbers' poles; the vista terminated in a second saloon of audience, much smaller than the first, and into which we were all ushered. There was a central spot to which we were conducted, and requested to be seated on ottomans placed for that purpose. Tea and confectionery were here served to us, alike with the chief officers of the household present.

From one side of the room numerous eyes were levelled at us through rows of opera-glass-looking apertures piercing the wall; from glimpses which we occasionally caught of the observers, we saw that they were ladies, although, from previous report, we knew that it had been usual for the wife of the emperor and the ladies of the court to assemble together behind screens thus ventilated, for the purpose of scanning the members of our periodical embassy,* which

* A contrivance not unlike the ladies' gallery in our British House of Commons.

was formerly undertaken annually, and subsequently quadriennially, but is now only required on special occasions. It was on such an occasion that I went, and I think it will still remain the last journey of the Dutch to Jeddo.

Meanwhile, the Ziogoon had entered and seated himself *incog.* in a circular *diwan*, on an elevation at the extreme end of the room, and in so sombre a light, and so much screened by attendants and curtains, that we could hardly discern him.

During this time we spoke to each other only, if at all; and immediately after dispatching the refreshment offered, were conducted once more with great pomp through a series of strange lobbies, halls, and galleries, till we emerged from the palace, and finally reached the guard house, where we had left our horses and servants. Here we remounted, and rode back to our inn.

On the following morning we visited in the same manner the third governor of Nagasaki, who had his palace in the first division of the imperial buildings. He welcomed us warmly, and, after having partaken of tea and a pipe

with us, adjourned to another saloon than the one of audience, where a repast was served, consisting of several soups, half-a-dozen varieties of fish, including oysters and pickled salmon, sliced birds, hot cakes, confectionery, plum wine, intoxicating saki, omelettes, ginger, lemon, and orange, the two last in a preserve of wine, and sundry other and indescribable things, of which we partook with much gusto, and to our entire satisfaction.

We returned to the saloon of audience after this, where several magnificently-attired ladies, members of the governor's family, soon made their appearance, and drank tea with us, meanwhile talking in a low tone either to the governor or the officers present; the latter of whom occasionally questioned us, in Dutch, direct. In fact, they were the mouthpieces of the governor, it being Japanese etiquette with reigning princes to hold conversation with foreigners only through interpreters; and this is as much to preserve great dignity as to prevent misunderstandings, the interpreters being usually the best versed in Dutch, English, Chinese, or any other language known in the empire. After

a stay of about two hours in all, we took our leave of the governor, returned to our hotel at the sign of the Fox, where presents of many robes of silk were delivered to us by the imperial officers; and, on the day following, we took our departure *en route* again for Nagasaki.

Once more we were riding in single file along the clean, well-kept highways, arrayed in Japanese cloaks of oiled paper, stained with various figures, and so capacious that they covered both man and horse—once more in our umbrella-shaped hats of light bamboo, cool and light as the cloaks, and fastened under the chin by ribbons, while before and behind us, our Japanese guides, with the ends of their robes stuffed into the immense pockets of their immense but tapering riding trousers, handled their silken reins, singing gaily as they went.

CHAPTER IX.

Hours had elapsed since the time of our meeting, before the Dutchman and I parted; but when the moment of that inevitable event arrived, I shook the hand of the good old Hollander with a warmth and interest which almost amounted to affection.

"Poor fellow!" said I to myself; "he yearns for *Vaterland*. Would that I could transport him thither! He has been too long estranged from home and country—from the sight of his native windmills, and the cheering influence of *Lager bier*. He lives in a beautiful country, yet he seems not to participate in its joys.

Would that I could cause one ray of felicity to flash across his saddened soul; for, by nature sombre, his mind—his spirit has been deadened by monotony; he has been alone of the factory, and not of Japan. He came for gain, and the filling of the lucre-bag by the driblets of a stipend is still the highest—the only object of his ambition."

We parted, but to meet again. After this, I took my lonely way to the house of Noskotoska.

I found him seated alone on his cool verandah, shaded from the vivid sunlight which decked the flowery prospect before him. A cup of tea, and materials for smoking, had just been deposited on a table by his side.

"Welcome," said he, speaking from his ottoman, "I am happy in thy presence. Come hither, and be seated;" and he shook me warmly by the hand.

"Another bright and glorious day," I observed.

"Yes," he responded, "another ray of light and beauty. This is the happy and festive season in which all nature pulsates with joy;—when the landscape smiles and the feathered

throngs unite in song; and every living thing disports in the gladness of its existence. This is the noonday of the year—the heyday of life. I rejoice in it exceedingly. Poet-philosophers and stoic-philosophers, mathematicians and toilers more obscure, are alike with sucklings in the enjoyment of felicity beneath a sky so fair, and when imbibing an atmosphere so balmy and so vivifying as this."

"Thy words," said I, "are as jewels newly fallen from the richest casket of human intellect. They embody truth and eloquence. I congratulate thee on the possession of so good a philosophy, blended with so much poetry of feeling. You, most noble Noskotoska, can appreciate the beauties of nature—the grand—the magnificent—the sublime. Your mind can soar above the dust you tread, and can feast on its own acquirements, aloof from the mere animal. Yet how many there are who in 'the human form divine' are but animals of superior instinct. Noskotoska, we, as kindred spirits, can exchange these thoughts, these sentiments, and enjoy the communion which it affords; but, in other lands, it would be vain to hold such converse

with the earthy—with plodders only after gold—who prefer its search to the glories of learning—the explorative researches of metaphysical and inventive science. Yet I would not, believe me, noble sir, wish to see a race of unprofitable labourers in the vineyard of learning—for light should give forth light. But in the country from which I come, thousands waste their lives away in planting that which, alas! too often beareth no fruit. I quote the words of 'England's greatest novelist' when I say, but with pain:—

"'It is a melancholy sight, which none but those educated at a college can understand, to see the debilitated frames of the aspirants for academical honours; to mark the prime, the verdure—the glory—the life—of life wasted irrevocably away in a *labor ineptiarum* which brings no harvest either to themselves or others. For the poet, the philosopher, the man of science, we can appreciate the sacrifice; from the darkness of their retreat there goes a light—from the silence of their studies there issues a voice—to illumine or convince. We can imagine them looking from their privations to the far visions of the future, and hugging to their

hearts, in the strength of no unnatural vanity, the reward which their labours are certain hereafter to obtain. To those who can anticipate the vast dominions of immortality among men, what boots the sterility of the cabined and petty *present?* But the mere man of languages and learning—the machine of a memory heavily but unprofitably employed—the Columbus wasting at the galley-oar the energies which should have discovered a world—for him there is no day-dream of the future, no grasp at the immortality of fame. Beyond the walls of his narrow room he knows no object; beyond the elucidation of a dead tongue, he indulges no ambition; his life is one long schoolday of lexicons and grammars —a fabric of ice, cautiously excluded from a single sunbeam—elaborately useless, ingeniously unprofitable; and leaving at the moment it melts away, not a single trace of the space it occupied, or the labour it cost.'"

"How lamentable!" observed he, "that objects which deserve so well should meet with so transitory a career, so obscure a fate; for the acquisition of learning is a high achievement, and, after his God, next worthy of man's sub-

limest aspirations. In Nipon we prize and exalt its possessor—we magnify his worth—we immortalise his name."

At this stage of the conversation I was served by a kneeling attendant in gossamer with a saucerless cup of unsophisticated tea, and a small lacquered tray, containing the usual materials for smoking, as also a gaily painted fan; for I had left my own on board.

"This," said I, "is our last day in port."

"Alas!" Noskotoska regretted it.

"Your government," I continued, "will not allow us to stay any longer. We only called here for wood and water, and ought to have left on the day after our arrival."

I was interrupted by the appearance of the fair wife. I rose and took her gently by the hand.

On leaving the ship, I had folded in tissue paper, and deposited in the two pockets of my coat, a pocket volume of Byron, a ditto Gazetteer, and two one shilling books, remarkable for their illuminated paper wrappers, and the "fun" which they contained, and as having been published in Paternoster Row; and this was in redemption of my promise to enrich my

host's stock of English literature. I was sorry that I could do no better, but unfortunately I possessed no library, and having a profound and cautious respect, both by nature and habit, for the laws of *meum and tuum*, I felt in no way disposed to run the risk, be it remote as unknown worlds, of being indicted for "petty larceny," by poaching over the library of the ship for the sake of even Noskotoska and Japan. For temptation to me is a thing I spurn, and a vapour whose influence would never be felt; it is, alike with its next companion, intimidation, a power—a vice which I, alike with every man of courage, self-reliance, and magnanimity, would never yield to; that man, who is not sufficiently resolute, and who has not sufficient pride of intellect to resist both, is an object rather of pity than reproach; for he that is not master of his own actions, surrenders his spirit of self-dependence, and exposes himself to the caprice and mockery of apes—yea, often worse—to ruin—to the gallows.

In addition to the four trifles mentioned, I carried in a small roll half-a-dozen steel engravings, embracing views of English scenery. These together I delivered over to Noskotoska,

with many expressions of regret that such was my poverty, I could do no better in the bestowal of a more worthy gift. I, however, made him acquainted with the genius and world-wide fame of Byron, several of whose works were encased in the volume before him.

"The greatest poet that England and the world ever produced," said I, "here speaks to you. Yet, I am sorry to say, that Byron, now long dead, although his widow still survives, is excluded from a niche in the ranks of his brother poets, in a national sanctuary of ours, called Westminster Abbey."

"Why is one so great not enrolled in their number?" he asked.

"On the ground of mere class prejudice," I replied. "A few ecclesiastical dignitaries did not esteem his views to conform sufficiently to theirs. In fact, he was too unconventional for them. One old gentleman in particular thought him addicted to 'ungodly glee.'"

"Ah," said Noskotoska, thinking no doubt of Buddha, Sintoo, and Co., and looking as if he had just explored a secret—"in what God did he believe?"

"In the God of universal nature," I replied.

"Well, that is very comprehensive," he remarked, apparently satisfied with the answer; "but the possessor of ideas so vast would not be likely to stoop to false gods, or lesser gods than Him of universal nature, neither would he bow down before images; and his innate philosophy would teach him that which was right."

"Just so," I remarked; "but the present age is one of progress and enlightenment, wherein men's minds are becoming more liberal and expansive with the flight of every year, and in the course of time there is no doubt that Byron will have his niche within the sacred precincts of that crumbling abbey of Westminster, the exclusion from which hitherto has been a just cause for national reproach.

Noskotoska handed the engravings, one by one, to his wife, after examining them himself. They both appeared to be much pleased with the style of art. He then remarked the beauty and nobility of Byron's head and face, as pourtrayed on the title-page of his poems, and positively laughed at the humorous embellishments outside the shilling books. He thought them

at once like and unlike the volumes of his own country, but the humour and expression of the pictures was quite new to, and almost puzzled him to comprehend.

"The sun is sinking," said he at length, "let us go forth and ride."

"With all my heart," was the ready response, for I felt rather merry than otherwise, and therefore responded thus briefly; under ordinary circumstances I should have said, "I shall have much pleasure. It will afford me much joy, and magnify mine own importance to bestride thy steed, in company with thyself, most noble Noskotoska."

As it was, the peculiarity of my reply caught the quick ear of the Japanese, and thinking, perhaps, that I spoke interrogatively, he said, "With all your heart!—Why, could you ride with half—with less than all of it?"

I smiled, and replied in the negative, saying that the expression was colloquial in England, and meant—what *I* meant, reader.

He was enlightened. He tapped the small brazier before him with his fan, an attendant presented himself, and a pair of saddled horses

were ordered to be brought to the door. In a few minutes afterwards, we were astride of them. The saddles were of unique and elaborate construction, the materials employed in their manufacture being deerskin, tanned bullock's hide, silk, and gold and silver for the embroidery. The stirrup leathers were very short, and the stirrups were of silver, and shaped like a shoe; the reins were of silk, and fastened to the bit. Our horses were led into the suburbs, it being a point of dignity with my companion that his quadruped should be so conducted.

I was sorry to find that I could not compliment him on the possession of very fine animals; they were only fourteen hands high, and moreover were too cat-hammed and ass-headed to please me. I did not fail to acquaint him with these defects in drawing a comparison between his horses and the hunters I had been accustomed to sit in my harum-scarum days, when I cared as little about my neck as I did the reverse for a good day's hunting.

We rode towards the place of temples—the ecclesiastical region at the foot of the hills. The entire way was lined with shops and inviting

villas, and crowds, as usual, thronged the streets, all picturesque in costume and happy in look. The clanging of bells was heard as we approached the site of the imposing buildings. Thousands, Noskotoska informed me, were then engaged in their devotions. We at length reached an avenue which was comparatively free from traffic, and at the end of which we found ourselves in front of a magnificent Buddhist sanctuary. No worship was going forward in this, so we entered it.

On each side of the massive stone portals was an immense image carved out of wood, and in a sitting posture; the one figure to the right was depicted in speaking action, with extended hand, the other as a listener, the personification of repose. They were both well executed, painted, and much superior to anything of the kind that I had seen elsewhere in Japan. The features were very naturally coloured and expressive. Passing between these, along an inner walk or avenue about two hundred feet wide, well gravelled and lined on both sides with handsome stone candelabras and fountains, we entered a kind of pavilion, in which were nume-

rous images, a little beyond which we found ourselves at the foot of a flight of eight stone steps, beautifully painted with figures, and reaching to the grand entrance of the temple itself. We ascended, and found ourselves within view of several screens, on which flowers, dragons' heads, and the stork were the most conspicuous objects. On each side of this porch stood a colossal figure of some fabulous animal, which must have largely taxed the imagination of the artist concerned to produce; it was something between a griffin and a hippopotamus, and, according to the vague account of Noskotoska, held high rank in the mythology of Japan, as connected with earthquakes. The porch, which was ample, was sustained by pillars of lacquered wood, bearing many a carved device of the same mythological character as the figures last described. We found the immense interior to be choked up with sliding panels, dividing the hall of worship into about a hundred compartments. The walls, so far as I could see, were hung with pictures done on paper and varnished over; images were also plentiful in their appointed recesses. The same sombre aspect characterised

the interior of this sanctuary, as belonged to those before described, and the floor was covered by the same description of fine matting, but here with a gilt border, as I had found elsewhere. The solitude, the silence of this place was impressive, and Noskotoska preserved the most profound gravity while he remained within the precincts of the sacred pile, coupled in my belief with a little private devotion, for, as I have before said, the Japanese respect the religion of their neighbours.

Coloured lamps were burning in front of the central shrine, but not a priest, or acolyte, or devotee was to be seen. We did not walk round the building, as my companion appeared to deem such a performance little less than desecration. Under these circumstances, we quitted the building after a stay of about five minutes.

Emerging again into the outer avenue, we mounted our steeds and ascended the slope of the hills about half a mile, and as far as a shrine, whose height and picturesque appearance very much attracted my attention. It was partly surrounded by camphor-laurel-trees, and arborescent mimosas. It was approached by a flight of ten stone steps, leading into a circular in-

terior, in which were numerous stone images, and slabs on which characters as well as figures were neatly carved, and in front of which worshippers prostrated themselves. It was of wooden construction, but richly gilded, and the floor was covered with the coarser kind of matting. It had a circumference of about a hundred feet, and was encircled by a well-kept garden, which a late devotee was then watering from a fountain near the entrance to the building.

Remounting our horses, we descended and rode along the base of the declivity, within view of a beautiful panorama of temples, beyond which lay the wide-spread city. We reached a wide gap in the architecture after a ride of about a quarter of a mile, and directing our nags through it, we found ourselves between two stately Buddhist temples. We dismounted and entered the broad avenue leading to one of them, the tiled roof of which rose about eighty feet from the ground, and was supported by the same intricate arrangement of girders, posts, and tie-beams, resting upon large lacquered pillars, as belonged to a simimilar edifice I had seen at Hakodadi. It was approached by ten

long stone steps, at the head of which were squatted, on either side the porch, two colossal statues of Buddha, carved in wood and painted. The grand hall of worship was in shape a parallelogram, and of immense size; it was lighted faintly by painted windows, which enhanced its splendour of effect. Its walls and cornices were elaborately carved, gilded, and painted over with figures of the mythological order. The floor was covered with the usual fine matting, and bordered with an embroidery of gold. The shrines, three in number, were decorated with burning lamps of various colours, also with long tapers. The sculpture and colouring were exquisite; gold and porcelain vases, and images in gold and silver, were numerous; ornaments in wood and brass, displaying the most skilful workmanship, and offering designs of dragons, the tortoise, and the stork, lay about the great altar, and the same air of solemnity that pervaded the other tabernacles we had just visited prevailed here.

Sliding panels intervened between the fancifully-carved pillars by which, with the aid of folding screens, the shrines could be readily par-

titioned off into separate compartments. Gay-plumaged birds flitted to and fro, depicted on the wall at the back of the shrines, and that part of the ceiling immediately above it presented a perfect Eden to the eye. On the whole, everything was rich and massive; the space allotted to worshippers was, as usual, empty, a few sliding screens alone filling up the the void.

Quitting very soon the precincts of the temple, which was backed, alike with all such, by a necropolis, and surrounded by beautiful gardens, with here and there an alcove, a fountain, and an artificial pond for gold fish, we remounted our intelligent steeds and rode homeward by a circuitous route, involving a continuation of our journey along the slope of the hills. I now requested the groom holding dominion over *my* horse to *let go*, upon which, as much, no doubt, to the astonishment of the steed concerned as to his owner and the two attendants, I went off at a canter. The animal decidedly expressed a liking for the sudden change in the dispensation of things, and I did not attempt to rein him in till I had passed from the gaze of Noskotoska, who was

getting along at his highest speed half a mile behind. Then I turned and cantered back again, creating a sensation among the three not unlike that said to have been produced in England on one occasion by the famous ride of John Gilpin, the humorous creation of the hypochondriac Cowper. My attendant looked horrified, and seemed greatly to pity the animal I bestrode, while Noskotoska and his leader seemed equally amazed at a performance so unusual. I had a hearty laugh at this little episode, which proved singularly contagious, for the trio as suddenly gave way to feelings of mirth also. I here related to my companion the adventure of the sailing master with a Simoda horse, which amused him much.

It was now sunset—beautiful, resplendent; the hues of the sky were reflected upon the glittering roofs of the city in fascinating splendour. "And this," said I to my companion, "is the last sunset I am ever to witness in Japan, for I go forth on the morrow, in all probability never to return; saddening reflection. Would that I were ubiquitous." Noskotoska looked pensive, gloomy, even amid the grandeur

of surrounding space. There was one consolation, however, I thought for him, his mind would be relieved from any future anxiety as to the fate of his horses at my hands; they would not be run to death, as I had just threatened to do one of them. But that was not enough to comfort him.

We rode in profound silence for about three minutes, at the end of which he amazed me by the announcement that he was about to sing. And no sooner was it said than done, and a beautiful wild warble it was, full as the battle-field roar of fighting armies; yet soft, pathetic, and melodious as an Italian love-song.

His song lasted about four minutes, during which time the attendants directed their faces to the ground, listening with mingled awe and delight to the music of their master's voice. He certainly sang well, and that although he continued to ride on during the whole time he was so engaged. I did not fail to compliment him upon his excellent voice and expression. He informed me that he could play upon sixteen instruments of music, of the stringed, drum, and wind order, and that his wife could

play upon even more. I said that I should esteem it a heaven to hear her before my departure. She, answered Noskotoska, would be proud and delighted to contribute to my happiness in that respect. I felt alive with joy; a sort of leaping gladness, that strongly induced me to go off at another canter. But I restrained the impetuosity of my feelings, and lavished words of eulogium upon the Japanese. We soon left the region of temples behind us, and entered the busy streets again. Here my companion wished to know whether the theatre would be agreeable to me. "Certainly," said I, "anything you prescribe."

Accordingly, we halted in front of a large wooden, well-lighted, gaily-ornamented building, and having dismounted, Noskotoska led the way through a hall and lobby, and up two flights of steps, into a compartment commanding a view of a large and handsome theatre, brilliantly lighted by hundreds of lamps, rich in colours and in gilding, and decorated with vivid wall pictures and elaborate carvings in wood and ivory. There were more than five hundred people present, and several actors were engaged

in active and ludicrous pantomime on the stage. Two scenes were going forward at the same time, and, as a consequence, there were two sets of actors, one set of two conjurors, the other of four, and a varying number of comedians. The two first performed a sham ceremony of the *Harikari* immediately after our entrance, and so naturally, that, under circumstances, I should have supposed it a tragedy in real life. It brought the morning scene at Simoda once more vividly to mind. They died before us, disembowelled, on the stage; but, to my astonishment, became rapidly transformed as they lay, and rose again simultaneously as bears, and a capital representation of Bruin they made. I never witnessed anything so wonderful and apparently unaccountable at the hands of any professing wizard before. The drop fell after the bears had danced about for a few seconds, and after the lapse of about a minute, was raised again, revealing the same characters in close-fitting garments. They had each a sword in their sashes, which they drew and held aloft; in another moment they flung them simultaneously into the air with a subdued cry resembling *tsshe*,

when, to my increased amazement, they were arrested in their flight, and remained; the one crossing the other like the letter X, suggestive of open scissors, above their heads. There was no sign whatever of the agency by which they were held there. Each man meanwhile eyed his sword steadily for a few seconds, when the same peculiar cry was uttered by them,—the swords fell at the instant, and each caught his own by the hilt. Such tricks inspired me with endless wonder and curiosity. I appealed to Noskotoska; but no, he could not tell me. It defied my comprehension to fathom the secret in the remotest degree, and I am equally ignorant to this day. The other performance going forward was a love-scene, and, in spite of the wonderful doings of the conjurors, there were more eyes directed to it than to them. The evening was advancing, and my home lay on the waters, so, after a stay of about a quarter of an hour, I suggested locomotion, which was readily adopted by my amiable companion. Our horses were in waiting, so at once bestriding them, we rode along the gaily-lighted animated streets to the abode of Tazolee.

The shades of evening were fast deepening around, and the raven wings of advancing night were casting their shadow over the earth as we dismounted at the porch of Noskotoska's house. We entered and proceeded to the upper saloon, which was brightly illuminated with many lamps, and where the fair Tazolee, two gentlemen, and three ladies, clad in black and other dark robes of silk, were apparently enjoying themselves over books, and cups of tea. All bowed, but remained seated, as I entered their presence. Tea and confectionery were at once served to me. Noskotoska took his seat and was served likewise. He suggested music. England loved song, and England would no doubt honour them with his strains harmonious.

I was somewhat surprised at this unexpected turning of the tables. I had come to hear a Japanese lady sing, and now my very host wanted me to utter (if I could) a few of the woodnotes wild he loved so much to hear. Seeing that it was expected of me, and that my responding to the call would conduce to the general satisfaction, I, without loss of time, gave them "Shells of Ocean," from memory of course, which appeared

to gratify them exceedingly. Now the instruments were brought by one of the attendants in gossamer, and laid beside the gentle Tazolee. She selected one very much resembling a guitar. With graceful expression she awoke the sweetest music I had ever heard—sounds Æolian in their softness and purity—angel whispers wafted from out of fairy land—beautiful tones that inspired while they cheered, and awoke the holiest, the sublimest faculties of the mind—that enthralled, and joyed, and fascinated, and made the heart's pulsation quicken with delight. Then rang her voice in strains soft and subdued, and in perfect unison with her instrument. The whole scene and subject inspired while it soothed me, till at length I subsided into a tranquil state of dreamy pleasure, and surrendered myself to the intoxication of the moment.

The music ceased with the effect of a retiring ray of sunlight. I felt ready to kiss the woman who sang and played so sweetly, who had afforded me a taste of felicity in the midst of such a sea of clouds and over such an arid desert as that in which my career then lay—it was as another oasis in the wildernesss. I loaded her with

eulogium. Night was advancing in her solitary flight, and it was high time for me to be on board. So with regret I bade adieu to all and for ever, and accompanied by two servants of mine host, I took my way to the river, and with the stars and the moon flickering and beaming through the canopy above me, I was borne in Noskotoska's gaily gliding barge once more to the frigate's side.

CHAPTER X.

NOTWITHSTANDING the circumstance of the ship being appointed to sail an hour before noon, the senior surgeon and myself took boat soon after breakfast for the landing-steps. We, however, constituted the only exceptions to the rule of *all a-board*. I had already informed him of my interview with the Dutchman, and as the said Dutchman had been to Jeddo, and the doctor was "a born Yankee," and consequently possessed of a very enquiring mind and elastic disposition, considerable interest was felt by the latter on his behalf, and he guessed he was in the humour just to have a good "liquor" and right-down talk with the Hollander.

We crossed the bridge, and followed the main street half its length, and turning up a lane to the left, entered the barn-looking warehouse in which I had met the forlorn one on the day previous. He was not now to be seen there, but a Japanese servant presented himself, who at once conducted us up the same staircase to the apartments in which he had entertained me on the previous day.

We found him in the act of smoking, and engaged in the perusal of a book in his own language. I introduced the doctor, who was anxious to have the honour of his acquaintance, and hoped he would not deem our presence an intrusion. The Dutchman bowed politely, and ejaculated a brief response.

The doctor held out his hand, and said,—"Happy to make your acquaintance, sir.—Been to Jeddo, I believe?"

The Dutchman failed to comprehend his English, of which language he had only an imperfect knowledge; but he extended his hand reciprocally, and busied himself in providing for our comfort, introducing pipes and tobacco, saki, and liqueurs, and begging us to be seated.

"Can't speak English," said the doctor, turning to me, and somewhat surprised at having received no reply to his observation about Jeddo.

"A little only," said I; "you could not reasonably expect a man shut up in Japan to be very proficient in conversational English."

"Very good, mister; you speak like a book. Well, then, we'll give him a little Dutch. Wait a bit." Upon which he pricked up his ears, and addressed the Dutchman thus:—"Parley-voo—commy-voo—vully-voo—sivvu-play—bon jour." I laughed aloud.

"Oh, confound it, that's French," said he.—"Can he talk *à la Francaise?*"

"I'm sure I don't know," I answered, my risible organs still in a state of agitation.

The Dutchman, meanwhile, looked much puzzled, but by no means wroth; he blamed himself for his deficiencies as a linguist, and much regretted that he was ignorant of the French language. And a very happy thing, too, as well for himself as the doctor, who, as the reader perceives, was by no means gifted in that respect. This was the opening scene of our interview.

The good old Dutchman placed glasses before us, and bade us help ourselves to saki and the gin of the native juniper. "My respects, mister," said the doctor, reaching over to chime glasses, and giving his peculiar nod to the Hollander.

The Dutchman evidently did not comprehend the meaning of the doctor's presentation of the glass. He imagined that it was intended for him to drink first out of it; so, accordingly, he took hold of it in a quiet, point-blank matter-of-fact manner, to the surprize of the other party, and drank; after which he handed it back, with a diminution in the liquor which it contained, of about one-half.

"He's a know-nothing," muttered the doctor, as he re-took the tumbler from the hand of the Dutchman. "He wants to be rowed up Salt River."

"Slick's the word;" and down the doctor's throat at that moment went what he afterwards called *the balance.*

"Now just ask him to tell us what he's seen," said the doctor, addressing myself while I was in the act of doing the same thing with regard to the Dutchman.

I did not heed him for a moment, upon which I felt a pull at my coat-tail.

"Look here—eh Mister—just ask him where he's been."

"All right, doctor," said I, turning round to him; for I had been leaning in an opposite direction.

"Yees, and just let us hear what he's got to say."

"Why?" I observed. "You'd be none the wiser if he told you."

"Shouldn't I—guess I should—guess you would if I wouldn't; and that's just as good —eh?"

Here he uttered a sort of half-chuckle, which was equivalent to saying, *I guess I'm right—eh?*

I continued my conversation with the Hollander.

"Well, what does he say—anything clear?"

"Yes," said I, "something very interesting to you. He says that when he was ill on one occasion, the Japanese doctors stabbed him with fine gold needles on nine fleshy parts of his body. Are you familiar with the science of acupuncture?"

"Why," he replied, "in my 'stimation puncture's a very bad science, specially when its experimentalized on the quick of the finger—sharp work, I guess—well, then, ask him how he liked it."

"Oh, it cured him," said I.

"Cured him;—well, he doesn't look quite the bacon, if he's cured. Well, anything else they did to him?"

I may here mention that acupuncture is a very common form of surgery with the Japanese. The needles employed are nearly as fine as a hair, and either of gold, silver, or steel. In using them, the bony parts, nerves, and blood-vessels are carefully avoided; and, while they are being pressed through the skin and muscles, they are twirled about in a peculiar manner.

Burning with the *moxa* is a still more favourite and universal remedy. This material is the finer woolly part of the young leaves of the wormwood (Artemesia). It is procured by rubbing and beating the leaves till the green part separates, and nothing remains but the wool. When applied, it is made up in little cones,

which, after being placed on the part selected for the operation, are set fire to from the top, when it burns down slowly, leaving a blister on the skin, which subsequently breaks.

Another great remedy with the Japanese is friction. Internal remedies are generally in the form of simple decoctions, diuretic or sudorific; and in these the Japanese Pharmacopœia is rich, and well adapted to the diseases of the country, which, however, are singularly few. The doctor renewed his inquiries.

"What's he saying?" he asked.

"Why, that he has been in the habit of using paper pocket-handkerchiefs for the last two years."

The doctor laughed, and wanted proof of such, or, at least, a specimen to be submitted.

Accordingly, I conveyed his desire to the Dutchman, who at once trudged off to an inner room, and came forth with one.

It was about the size of a ladies' cambric, stamped with coloured flowers, and softer and more silky than the finest European tissue paper,

but much stronger. It is the custom to burn these, instead of to wash them, when soiled. They are very cheap, so that this destruction is by no means a costly habit.

Again the Hollander and I were in conversation.

"Tall talking—he's got some jaw-crackers there," remarked the doctor, in a confidential tone.

"Yes," I observed, "he is informing me of the difficulty he experienced in acquiring even that slight knowledge which he possesses of the principles and grammar of the Japanese language."*

* Four grammars of the Japanese language have been published by missionaries, namely, that of Alvarez in Latin and Japanese (*De Institutione Grammatica libri iii., cum versione Japonia*), printed at Amacusa in 1593; that of Rodriguez in Portuguese (*Arte du Lingua de Japan*), printed at Nagasaki in 1604; that of Collado in Latin (*Ars Grammatica Japonica lingua*), printed at Rome in 1632; and that of Oyongusen in Spanish (*Arte du la Lingua Japonica*), printed at Mexico in 1738. Each of these grammars represent the sounds in Roman letters, and attempt to apply grammatical ideas and forms derived from the Greek and Latin to a language of a totally

"Ah! couldn't swallow the dose, I guess—looks as if he didn't."

different structure; thus complicating and obscuring a subject already difficult of analysis. These books are now very rare. Rodriguez prepared at Macao, in 1620, an abridgment of his grammar, which, nevertheless, remained in manuscript till 1825, when, with some omissions, it was printed by the Asiatic Society at Paris, in a French version, with an introduction by M. Remusat, the celebrated Chinese scholar, to which in the year following was added a supplement by Baron Humboldt.

Siebold has also published in Latin, in the Transactions of the Dutch Academy at Batavia in 1826, an epitome of the Japanese language (*Epitome Linguæ Japonica*), and, more recently, an introduction to the study of Japanese books (*Isagoge in Bibliothecum Japonicum et Studium Librarum Japonicum*). A dictionary in Latin Portuguese, and Japanese, a thick quarto of 980 pages, was printed at Amacusa in 1595; a vocabulary in Japanese and Portuguese was printed at Nagasaki in 1606; another in Spanish and Japanese (*Vocabulario de Japon*), was published at Manilla in 1630; *Collados Thesaurus*, a small Latin-Japanese vocabulary, was printed at Rome in 1632, and Medhurst's English and Japanese vocabulary (8vo. pp. 344), at Batavia in 1830; the latter contains about seven thousand Japanese words compiled from Chinese and Japanese, and Japanese and Dutch dictionaries printed and published at Nagasaki. Besides these, there is a Thesaurus by Siebold, which, however,

The Dutchman subsequently showed us some native drawings of richly-dressed ladies, which he informed us a Japanese, sympathizing with his wifeless condition, had given to him, in the hope that looking at them in his hours of loneliness might be a source of consolation, and this was the nearest approach to ladies' society which it was the lot of the Hollander to enjoy. The doctor relished this, and distinguished the occasion, as well as expressed his gratification, by a prodigious jet which he shot from between his teeth, and which splashed among the red cinders so as to almost extinguish the poor Dutchman's small fire.

It was now half-past ten, so we reluctantly took our leave, and shaking the old Hollander warmly by the hand, we bade him adieu, and repaired to the landing steps, where our boat had remained in waiting for us.

is a mere transcript of a Chinese-Japanese work; it contains a little more than twenty thousand words, with explanations, chiefly in Chinese, and an arrangement which renders it as a dictionary almost useless. A dictionary recently printed by Pfizmarez at Vienna, is, however, for usefulness and completeness, entitled to take precedence of anything of the kind hitherto written.

When nearing the frigate, I saw Noskotoska's barge cruising about; and by the time our boat had reached the ship's side, the gay craft was approaching within hail. I stepped into it when it reached the stage, and greeted its respected owner. He had brought me some presents in return for those I had made to the fair Tazolee and to himself. It consisted of two beautifully lacquered boxes, of indescribably irregular and indented shape, the one having Fusiyama on its lid and flowers on its sides; the other, the figure of a bird on the wing with a landscape beneath, and dragons' heads at the sides, and containing together a small mirror of a polished white amalgamated metal, four fine lacquer tea-cups, two ivory chopsticks, a silk fan, and four small images in lacquered wood, representing performers at a masquerade in their several characters and costumes. A shake of the hand and a series of low bows ensued, and I stepped again on to the ladder. The sculls of the barge were put in play, I waved my hand in token of farewell; the graceful craft sped onward to the shore, and Noskotoska and I had parted for ever.

In less than half an hour after this, Nagasaki was fast receding from my gaze; a little later, and the sunlit hills and emerald islets of its beautiful bay were alone visible, and before night the sky was a mighty vault, unpierced by a single pencilling of land.

UNIV. OF MICH.

NATHAN CORNWALLIS, DEL.

STANNARD & DIXON, LITH.

A BUDDHIST TEMPLE, AT NAGASAKI.

THE AFTER JOURNEY.

THE AFTER JOURNEY.

A SINGLE GLIMPSE.

CHAPTER I.

WEEKS elapsed before, emerging from the open Pacific, we entered the bay of Nookoora, on the island of that name, belonging to the group called Washington. This we did after sailing some miles along the shore, catching, as we proceeded, refreshing glimpses of blooming valleys, deep glens, waterfalls, and waving groves, hidden here and there by projecting and rocky headlands, every moment opening to the view some new and startling scene of beauty.

Those who for the first time visit these

waters are usually surprised at the appearance of the islands. They have likely pictured to themselves enamelled and softly-swelling plains, shaded by delicious groves, watered by purling brooks, and the entire country but little elevated above the surrounding ocean. But the reality is far different: bold rock-bound coasts, with the surf beating high against defiant cliffs, and broken here and there into deep islets, which offer to the view thickly-wooded valleys separated by the spurs of mountains clothed with tufted grass, and sweeping down towards the sea from an elevated and furrowed interior, most prominently characterise the island features.

The bay was clasped by an amphitheatre of hills, all green with verdure, all beautiful and picturesque. As we slowly advanced, numerous canoes pushed off from the surrounding shores, and we were soon in the midst of a flotilla of them, their aboriginal occupants contending together as to which should board us first. Now and then the projecting outriggers of their slight shallops running foul of one another, would become entangled below the

surface, so as to threaten a capsize, when a scene, made up of passionate gesticulation and fierce outcries, would ensue, producing a confusion too great for description.

Scattered over the water among the canoes I observed dozens of cocoa nuts floating closely together in circular groups, and bobbing up and down with the rise and fall of every wave. By some means, to me inexplicable, all these cocoa nuts were steadily approaching the ship. As I leaned in curiosity over the side in the endeavour to solve their mysterious movements, one mass, far in advance of the rest, attracted my attention. In its centre was something I could take for nothing else than a cocoa nut, but which I certainly esteemed to be one of the most prodigious specimens of the fruit I had ever seen. It kept whirling and dancing about among the rest in the most singular manner; and as it drew nearer, I thought it bore a remarkable resemblance to the brown shaven skull of one of the natives. Very soon it betrayed a pair of eyes, and I suddenly became aware that what I had supposed to be the nut of a tree, was nothing less than that of an individual and

a man, who, as the owner of these cocoa nuts, had adopted this, the customary method, of bringing them to market. They were all strung together by strips of the husk partly torn from the shell of each, and rudely fastened. The proprietor, with his head thus inserted in their midst, impelled his floating necklace through the water by striking out with his feet beneath the surface.

I was somewhat surprised to find that no females made their appearance, but I was ignorant, for the moment, of the fact that, by the operation of the native laws, the use of canoes in all parts of the island was strictly prohibited to the gentler sex; consequently, whenever a Nookoora lady felt disposed to journey by water, she had no other resource than to put in requisition the paddles allotted her by nature. We had approached within about two miles of the head of the bay, when some of the islanders, who by this time had succeeded in scrambling aboard at the risk of swamping their canoes, directed attention to a singular commotion in the water, nearly half-a-mile a-head. At first it looked as if a shoal of fish were sporting on the surface; but very soon

we were convinced of the approach of a swarm of native damsels. Every moment we drew nearer, and their existence became more palpable, their forms rising and falling with the waves, with the right arm uplifted above the water, bearing the girdle of *tappa*, and their long dark hair trailing beside them as they swam—and suggesting the idea of their being mermaids rather than women.

We were still nearly a mile from the beach, and under slow steam, when we sailed right into the midst of these swimming nymphs, and they boarded us at every quarter, dripping with the brine and glowing from the bath, their jet black tresses streaming over their shoulders, and half enveloping their otherwise naked forms. There they hung, sparkling with savage vivacity, laughing gaily at one another, and chattering away with enviable glee. Nor were they idle in the meantime; for each performed the simple offices of the toilet for the other. Their luxuriant locks, wound up and twisted into the smallest possible compass, were freed from the salt element, and the whole person carefully dried; and from a small circular shell that was passed

from hand to hand, anointed with a fragrant oil. Their adornments were completed by passing the girdle—a few loose folds of white *tappa*—in a modest cincture round the body. Thus arrayed, they no longer hesitated, but flung themselves lightly over the bulwarks, and were quickly frolicking about the decks.

Their appearance was a matter of astonishment. Their extreme youth, the light clear brown of their complexion, their delicate features, and inexpressibly graceful figures, their softly moulded limbs, and free, unstudied action, seemed as strange as beautiful.

They were all very properly put under guard while on board, our commander not liking to turn them into the water again; and, as soon as we anchored, they were sent on shore, some in boats, the rest swimming.

The bay of Nookoora is about ten miles in circumference, and of a horse-shoe form. The entrance is narrow, and flanked by two small twin islets, which rise conically some five hundred feet above the surface; from these the shore recedes on either hand, describing a deep semi-circle. From the verge of the water the

land rises uniformly on all sides with green and sloping acclivities, until, from gently rolling hill sides, and moderate elevations, it insensibly swells into lofty and majestic heights, whose blue outlines range far around them in the view.

The beautiful aspect of the shore is heightened by deep and romantic glens, which come down to it at almost equal distances, all apparently radiating from a common centre, and the upper extremities of which are lost to the eye beneath the shadow of the mountains. Down each of these valleys flows a clear stream, here and there assuming the form of a slender cascade, then stealing invisibly along until it sparkles again upon the sight in larger and more noisy waterfalls, and at last in silence wanders to the sea.

The houses of the natives are scattered irregularly over these valleys, and invariably beneath the shadow of cocoa-nut trees; they are constructed of yellow bamboo, carefully twisted together, and forming a kind of wicker-work, the roof being a thatching of the long tapering leaves of the palmetto. The scenery

of the bay is at once imposing and magnificent; viewed from the deck as we lay anchored in the centre of the harbour, it had the appearance of a vast natural amphitheatre in decay, and overgrown with vines, the deep glens that furrowed its sides appearing like enormous fissures caused by the ravages of time. "Enchanting prospect!" were the words to which I first gave utterance on surveying it. Yet here has the white man already made sore havoc, what calamity and destruction has his presence on these inviting shores not engendered. Alas! Aboriginalism, what a debt does civilisation owe to thee—a debt never to be repaid, but only to be added to still more.

About an hour after our anchoring, a handsome barge, gay with streamers, came alongside. It was the royal craft, and its chief occupants were King Rowanna and his bride. The yards were manned, and a salute fired in their honour. They ascended the accommodation ladder, and were met by the Commander, as they passed along the quarter-deck; the marine guard presented arms, while the band struck up to the tune of *the Cannibal Islands.*

Their appearance was unique—a mixture of the primitive and present. He was arrayed in the usual uniform, of tattoo partly concealed by a railway rug, while his shaven crown was concealed by a huge cap of native cloth waving with ostrich plumes. A broad patch of tattooing extended entirely across his face in a line with his eyes. His Queen was habited in a gaudy tissue of scarlet cloth, trimmed with yellow silk, which, descending a little below the knees, exposed to view her bare legs, embellished with spiral tattooing. Upon her head was a fanciful turban of purple velvet, figured with silver sprigs, and surmounted by a tuft of variegated feathers. She manifested a disposition to rove about the decks, when, from among the ship's company who were assembled to see her, she soon singled one whose arms and feet and exposed breast were covered with as many inscriptions in Indian ink as the lid of an Egyptian sarcophagus, and by virtue of which he seemed to have at once gained her special favour. She rolled up the leg of his wide trousers to examine the strange devices, and it was not until the gentleman *salt* abruptly

tore himself away from her, that she concluded the examination. They did not linger long on board, for it was near sunset when they came, and they took their departure apparently well pleased with the refreshments we had offered them, as well as the reception they had met with.

Early on the following morning, I joined a small party of two on an explorative tour over the north side of the island. After a good deal of scrambling through cane brake, and a somewhat arduous and dangerous ascent, we found ourselves, an hour before noon, standing on the top of what appeared to be the highest point on the island, such being an immense overhanging cliff, composed of basaltic rocks, hung round with parasitical plants. We were here about three thousand feet above the level of the sea, and the scenery, viewed from this elevation, was magnificent. The lovely bay of Nookoora, dotted here and there with canoes, reposed at the base of a circular range of hills, whose verdant sides, perforated with dells and gashed with indentations, formed a prospect as lovely as it was diversified.

"Let's liquor," said the sailing master; so we sat down beneath the pleasant shade of trees, and "liquored," and spread our banquet on the mossy but luxuriant turf, and lunched.

On the other side of the elevation, as far as the eye could carry, not a sign of human life was to be seen. The entire landscape seemed one unbroken solitude. Nevertheless we were quickly again a-foot and resumed our journey. As we advanced through this wilderness, our voices sounded strangely in our ears, as though human accents had never before disturbed the oppressive silence which prevailed, interrupted only by the low murmurings of here and there a waterfall. We continued on our way for about half a mile, when we came to an indistinctly traced footpath, leading through the grass, and which appeared to lead along the top of the ridge and to descend with it into a deep ravine visible beyond. Our curiosity to see whither this path might lead prompted us to pursue it. So on we went, the track gradually becoming more visible as we advanced, until it abruptly terminated on the verge of a ravine. The roar of waterfalls below rose tremulously into the

upper air. The scene was as animated as it was impressive. Five foaming streams, rushing through as many gorges, and swollen and turbid, owing to recent rains, united together in one wild plunge of nearly eighty feet, and fell with voice-like uproar into a deep, black pool, scooped out of the gloomy-looking rocks, that lay piled around, and thence, in one collected body, dashed down a narrow, sloping channel, which seemed to penetrate far into darkness and the earth. Overhead huge roots of trees hung from the sides of the ravine, dripping with moisture, and trembling with vibrations produced by the fall. To descend this was impossible; and we concluded the foot-path had been formed by such stray lovers of the picturesque as had wandered to behold, but to retrace again their footsteps.

Treading our way back for a short distance, we diverged to the left, and soon were cheered by as beautiful a view as I had ever gazed upon. We looked straight down into the bosom of a distant valley, which swept away in long wavy undulations to the blue waters of the Pacific. Midway, and peering here and there, amidst the foliage, were to be seen the palmetto-thatched

houses of the natives glistening in the sunlight, by which they had already been bleached to a dazzling whiteness. The vale was about four miles in length, by a breadth of a mile at its greatest width. On either side it was hemmed in by steeps and green declivities, which uniting near the spot where we stood, formed an abrupt and semicircular termination of grassy cliffs and precipices hundreds of feet in height, over which leaped many a brightly glistening cascade. But the crowning beauty of the prospect was its universal verdure. Far and wide the prospect was covered with sunlit foliage. Over the entire landscape there reigned the most hushed repose; even the cascades, silent in the distance, seemed to rest like silver threads upon the mighty picture. All was holiness and light. But between this valley and us, several rugged ridges intervened, separated by deep chasms.

We drew nearer to the brink; an inviting stream lay in a dell beneath; we were thirsty, we would descend; our line of route lay in that direction, and a considerable distance would be saved by crossing the ridges

at this point. With a heedless courage from which prudence would have shrunk, we threw ourselves down the depths of the ravine, startling its primeval solitudes with the echoes produced by the falling fragments of rock which we every moment dislodged, apparently careless of the insecurity of our footing, and reckless whether the slight roots and twigs we clutched at sustained us for the while, or treacherously yielded to our grasp.

After a few minutes of peril we reached the foot of the gorge, and kneeling upon a small ledge of dripping rock, we bent over one by one, and dipped our general drinking glass into the stream. We found the water of an icy temperature, which, combined with the shade into which we had plunged, contributed very much to cool us, whilst the sight of the dank rocks, oozing forth moisture at every crevice, and the dark stream shooting along its here dismal channels, tended to make the contrast between the hill and the dell still more striking. Crossing the latter, we reached, after an hour's hard climbing, the summit of an uneven ridge; this we descended, and then followed the bed of a

watercourse, choked here and th
ments of broken rocks that had falle
these offered in themselves many
to the course of the rapid stream w[illegible] vexed and fretted about them, forming at intervals small waterfalls pouring over into deep basins, or splashing wildly upon heaps of stones. From the narrowness of the gorge and the steepness of its sides, there was no mode of advancing but by wading through the water, which resulted in our stumbling every moment over the impediments that lay hidden beneath its surface, or our tripping against the huge roots of trees.

The most annoying hindrance, however, which we encountered was from a multitude of crooked boughs, which, shooting out almost horizontally from the sides of the chasm, twisted themselves together in fantastic masses, almost to the surface of the stream, affording us no passage save under the low arches which they formed. Under these we were obliged to crawl on our hands and feet, sliding along the oozing surface of the rocks, or slipping into the deep pools.

Now and again the head of some one of us would come in unpleasant concussion against

the limb of a projecting tree, the prevailing light being somewhat leaden, and while imprudently engaged in rubbing the injured part, would fall sprawling amongst flinty fragments, which seldom failed in the work of bruising, whilst the unpitying waters flowed heedlessly over the prostrate individual.

Our progress was necessarily slow, nevertheless we reached by two o'clock a rocky precipice, nearly a hundred feet in depth, that extended entirely across the channel, and over which the stream wildly flung itself in one unbroken leap, while on either hand the walls of the ravine presented their overhanging sides both above and below the fall, affording no means whatever of avoiding it by describing a circle.

We approached the verge of the cataract, and looking down we observed growing along the side of the ravine a number of round gutta-percha-looking roots, some three or four inches in thickness, and several feet long, which, after twisting among the fissures of the rock, shot perpendicularly from it, and ran tapering to a point in the air, hanging over the gulf like so many dark icicles. They covered

nearly the entire surface of one side of the gorge, the lowest of them reaching to the water. Many were moss-grown and decayed, with their extremities evidently snapped short off, while those in the immediate vicinity of the fall, looked slippery with moisture. We now began to deliberate as to the propriety of descending by the aid of these treacherous-looking appendages. We were each ripe for adventure, and danger was rather courted than otherwise, as being the source of a little pleasant excitement.

Without uttering a word, therefore, I crawled along the dripping ledge until I gained a point from which I could just reach one of the largest of the pendant roots; I shook it—it quivered in my grasp, and when let go it twanged in the air like a strong wire sharply struck. Thus impressed with its sufficient strength, I swung myself nimbly upon it, and twisting my legs round it in sailor fashion, slipped down nine or ten feet, when its motion became like that of a pendulum.

I did not like venturing further on the strength of this now slightly tapering root, so holding on by one hand, with the other I

tested the strength of all those around me by taking hold of and shaking them. After the lapse of a few moments, I transferred myself to one of these, and continued my descent. Casting a glance forward as I swung, I had the unwelcome sight of one of my companions swinging also, and that directly over my head. Woe to me, I thought, if he breaks loose, we shall go to the bottom in company. I endeavoured to get out of the way by clutching roots dangling more to the right. While in the act of so doing, I was startled by the downfall of a root, which struck me like an eel across the head and shoulders, and went toppling down, followed by another almost at the same instant. I looked upward to observe whether the sailing-master was following suit, and to my gratification found that he was still aloft, but clinging like a swallow to the slimy rocks, apparently in the midst of a desperate difficulty. The next root that I took hold of to test, fell in a similar manner; it became evident that only a few of the roots, and those of the largest kind, would bear a man's weight without yielding. I was now suspended over the yawning chasm, swinging to and fro

with the motion of the tendril which supported me. Once—twice I made a violent effort to clutch the only large root near me, but in vain —I could not reach it. At length, desperate and impatient, I struck my foot against the side of the rock, and by the impetus thus given to the motion of my body, I was swung to within reach of the desired rope, when at the instant of approach I grasped it with my unoccupied hand, and letting go the other tendril, I transferred myself to it in utter uncertainty as to whether it would break off or still retain its hold on the rock. It vibrated violently under the sudden weight, but luckily did not give way. I felt a thrill of grateful joy at my deliverance, but the next moment I felt a dizziness steal over me, and I involuntarily closed my eyes to shut out the view of the depths below.

From this, however, the way was comparatively safe and easy, the roots being in greater abundance, while here and there points of the rock jutted out and greatly assisted in the descent, which was soon gained, the sailing-master reaching the bottom a few moments only after myself. We looked upward, and beheld our companion,

the third lieutenant, looking down upon us from the summit of the precipice. We motioned him to follow, to which he shouted a reply which we failed to hear, but from his non-compliance we supposed it to have been expressive of his disinclination to run the risk of the descent. We therefore continued our course along the bed of the ravine without him.

After half an hour's quick but painful progress, we reached the verge of another fall, still loftier than the preceding one, and flanked both above and below with the same steep masses of rock, presenting, however, here and there narrow irregular ledges supporting a shallow soil, on which grew a variety of bushes and trees, the vivid green of whose foliage contrasted beautifully with the foaming waters that glowed between them. I descended to reconnoitre, and found that the shelves of rock on our right would enable us to gain, with trifling risk, the bottom of the cataract. Accordingly, leaving the bed of the stream at the very point where it thundered down, we began crawling along one of these sloping ledges, until it carried us to within a few feet of another that inclined

downward at a still sharper angle, and upon which, by assisting each other, we succeeded in safely alighting. We now crept warily along this, steadying ourselves by clutching the naked roots of the shrubs that clung to every fissure. As we proceeded, the narrow path became still more contracted, rendering it a matter of great difficulty for us to maintain our footing, until suddenly, as we reached an angle of the wall of rock where we had expected it to widen, we perceived, to our consternation, that a few yards further on it abruptly terminated at a place we could not possibly hope to pass.

On this occasion my companion led the way. "We can do it," said he; and at the same moment he slipped sideways off the rock, and fell—to where I knew not. I, however, heard a crashing of branches, and looking over, perceived that he had alighted in the centre of the spreading foliage of a species of palm-tree that, shooting its hardy roots along a ledge below, curved its trunk upwards into the air, and presented a compact crown about twenty feet below the ledge upon which I stood. Involuntarily I held my breath, in momentary expectation of

seeing the body of my companion sink through the frail support of the branches, and fall headlong to the bottom. To my joyful surprise, however, he recovered himself, and disentangling his limbs from the fractured boughs, he peered out from his leafy resting-place, and shouted, "Come along!" And almost simultaneously with this he ducked beneath the foliage, and slipping down the trunk, presented himself a moment afterwards at least fifty feet below me, and upon the broad shelf of rock from which sprung the tree he had descended. It was a daring act, and I was beginning to question the desirability of following the example, when closing my eyes, I inclined myself over towards the abyss, and after one breathless instant fell with a crash into the tree, the branches snapping and crackling with my weight as I sank lower and lower among them, until I was stopped by coming in contact with a sturdy limb. In a few moments I was standing at the foot of the tree, manipulating myself all over, with a view to ascertain the extent of the injuries I had received. To my surprise, the only effects of my feat were a few very slight contusions.

The remaining descent was easily accomplished, and we were again in a ravine. We now sat down on a fragment of rock, and applied ourselves to the brandy flask and the consumption of a sandwich, feeling at the same time as hot as we were for the time exhausted.

We quickly resumed our dismal and still difficult path, in the hope of soon catching a glimpse of the valley before us. Our object was to cross the latter, and so make a short cut back to the shores of the bay from which we had started.

Towards sunset the voice of a cataract, which had for some time sounded like a low, deep bass, to the music of the smaller waterfalls, broke upon our ears in still louder tones, and assured us that we were approaching its vicinity. In half an hour afterwards, during which time we had made rapid progress over the rocks and shallows, we stood on the brink of another precipice, over which the dark stream bounded in one final leap of full three hundred feet. The sheer descent terminated in the valley of our hopes. On either side of the fall, two lofty

and perpendicular bluffs buttressed the sides of the enormous cliff, and projected into the sea of verdure with which the valley waved, and a range of similar projecting eminences stood disposed in a horseshoe form about the head of the vale. A thick canopy of trees hung over the very verge of the fall, leaving an arched aperture for the passage of the waters, which imparted a strange picturesqueness to the scene.

There lay the valley spread out before us, but instead of our being conducted into its inviting embrace by the gradual descent of the steep water-course which we had thus far pursued, it came to an abrupt termination, which appeared to be utterly impassable. Vainly we searched for a gap down which we might slide, or for a single available spot that promised anything short of certain death to us. To retrace our steps was of course a thing impossible; no human being could have scaled those rocky heights which we had descended.

The rainbow hues of sunset were now flashing athwart the beautiful prospect beneath us—how grand, how beautiful, how sublime; and yet, in the midst of all this beauty and magnificence,

we were desolate, we were without food, without a sheltering roof, or a prospect of deliverance. Since one memorable night passed in Australia, when I had lost myself in the "Bush," I never felt so lonely, or was filled with so much disappointment as at the pensive hour of twilight on this, the eventual day of my toilsome adventure on Nookoora.

A small table rock which projected over the precipice on one side of the stream, and was drenched by the spray of the fall, sustained the trunk of a large tree, which in all probability had been deposited there by some heavy freshet. It lay obliquely with one end resting on the rock, and the other supported by the side of the ravine. Against it we placed in a sloping direction a number of the half-decayed boughs that were strewn about, and covering the whole with branches and leaves, we crept under its shelter. And this, reader, was our bed.

During the whole of the night the continual roaring of the cataract, the dismal moaning of the wind through the trees, and the pattering of continual rain, which commenced falling soon

after sunset, united in one melancholy dirge, while the profound darkness—moonless, starless—tended but to intensify the gloominess of our position, as there, encased in our saturated clothes, we awaited the break of another day.

CHAPTER II.

MORNING at length dawned, but leaden, and wet, and gloomy, and offering but a cheerless prospect to beings so forlorn as ourselves. We rose from our miserable pallet, and stretched our stiffened joints, and after taking a draught of the running water, we looked about us with the determination of men desperate. Descend that abyss we must, it was our only resource. Resolute and hungry, we commenced the perilous undertaking, with the torrent hissing in our ears, as though invoking our destruction. Downward, still down we swung, and leapt from crag to crag, and tendril to tendril—down

into the black depths of the abyss. Even the recollection of the momentary, the frightful danger to which I was then exposed thrills me to the heart. Many a hair-breadth escape had we before reaching the bosom of the valley; but reach it we did, although not without lacerated hands and shaken bodies. I would fain describe the descent, but my pen would fail in the endeavour; and as I have already dwelt long upon previous perils of the kind, the reader will readily realize the position, when I say it was an exaggeration of the previous scene of the precipice—it was terrific.

The part of the valley in which we now found ourselves appeared to be altogether uninhabited. An almost impenetrable thicket extended from side to side, without presenting a single plant affording the nourishment we had looked forward to. We followed the course of the stream for nearly a mile, and were surprised at still meeting with the same impervious thickets, but no sign of a path, or yet anything indicative of the vicinity of islanders. At length we paused in front of a narrow opening in the foliage. We at once struck into it, and it soon

brought us by an indistinctly traced path to a comparatively clear space. Here the path faded, and lost itself in the open ground. We therefore entered a grove which lay at our right, and had only advanced about a hundred yards, when we saw, lying on the ground, a small bundle of the green shoots of the bread-fruit tree, bound with a strip of bark. Almost at the same moment, I caught a glimpse of two figures, partly hidden by the foliage. I advanced.

They were a boy and a girl, slender, and graceful, and naked, save so far as a slight girdle of the cloth of bark was concerned, and from which depended, at opposite points, two of the russet leaves of the bread-fruit tree. One arm of the boy was thrown about the neck of the girl, while with the other he clasped one of her hands in his own. Thus stood they together, their heads inclined forward, and with one foot in advance, as if half inclined to fly from our presence. Their alarm perceptibly increased as we drew nearer. I halted, and drawing forth my pencil-case, as a gift, beckoned them to approach; but they still held back timorously. I then ejaculated a few imitations of the sounds I had heard uttered

by the natives who had boarded us, which I intended to have the effect of calming their troubled souls—at the same time I slowly advanced towards them, and made signs of friendship. After retreating a few feet, they stood still, and permitted me to approach; my companion, at my suggestion, followed me at a few yards' distance. I had great difficulty in assuring them of our peaceful intentions, and I thought fit to divest myself of my necktie, and present it to the young lady, in furtherance of that end. I signified that I was hungry, and would experience much satisfaction in being allowed to partake of a few shoots of their bread-fruit, which they accordingly allowed me to take. I then led them to understand that we (pointing to my companion) should be glad to go home with them. To this, their confidence being by this time somewhat restored, they consented, by timidly leading the way. They, however, turned round from time to time with a half-scared look, to observe us as we followed. Not a word had they uttered in our presence, until, suddenly, they now set up a strange halloo, which was answered from beyond the grove through which

we were passing; and the next moment we entered upon some open ground, at the extremity of which we descried a long, low hut; and in front of it were several young girls. At the instant of their seeing us, they fled with wild screams into the adjoining thickets, like so many startled fawns.

A few moments afterwards, the whole valley was resounding with savage outcries; and the natives came rushing down upon us like a whirlwind from every direction, and evidently in a state of the wildest excitement. We were soon surrounded by a dense throng, whose flashing eyes and looks of curiosity, together with their tattooed forms, and the landscape on which we stood, formed a splendid picture, which for aboriginal effect outvied even that of an Australian Corrobbori.*

* The Corrobbori always takes place at night by the light of blazing faggots, and to time beaten on stretched skins, accompanied with singing. The dancers paint their bodies in a vivid manner with red, blue, and white clay, and in such varied ways that no two individuals are alike. Darkness is essential to the effect of the whole; and, as the painted figures come forward in mystic order from the obscurity of the background, while the singers and beaters of time are invisible, they have a

Our youthful guides, with amazing volubility, appeared to be detailing the circumstances connected with our meeting. The whole audience every moment appeared to grow more and more

highly theatrical effect. The dance is progressive, the first movement being slow, and introduced by two performers, others, one by one, joining in, and each imperceptibly warming into savage attitudes of almost frenzical excitement. The legs are stretched to the utmost, the head is turned over one shoulder, the eyes glare, and are fixed with the fiercest energy in one direction; the arms are raised, the hands usually grasping waddies, boomerangs, and other weapons. The entire tableau is peculiarly, almost fearfully grand; the dark, wild forest scenery around, the bright firelight gleaming on the savage and uncouth figures of the men, their natural dark hue being illuminated by their gaudy colouring, which also gives them an indescribably ghastly aspect; their strange attitudes, their violent contortions and movements, together with the unearthly sound of their yells, mingled with the wild and monotonous wail of the women, makes altogether a very near approach to the horribly sublime. The excitement produced in the aborigine by this dance is extreme. However listless he may have been, he is filled with sudden energy on engaging in it, and every nerve is strung to the utmost degree. Then it is that animation, wild, picturesque, and thrilling in its theatric intensity, lives in every movement, every gesture, and every yell to which he gives a momentary but vivid existence.

astonished. We, however, continued moving and at length reached a large and handsome bamboo building, into which we were by signs invited to enter, the natives dividing, and so forming a lane for that purpose. In a moment the slight tenement was full of people, while the crowd, unable to gain admission, gazed in at us through its open cane-work.

We seated ourselves on the mats with which the floor was covered, and close to where seven noble-looking chiefs were squatted upon their haunches, and who regarded us with a fixed and stern attention, while all around the view was one of naked forms and tattooed limbs belonging to brawny warriors, and here and there a girl, all of whom were engaged in a perfect storm of conversation, and that about ourselves; what an interesting position for us! My companion suggested our moving hence; I warned him against doing so before we had established ourselves in the favour of the people. He observed that he had no wish to be eaten—that we did not know the character of the people. I reminded him that we both rowed in the same boat. He looked at his boots, and manifested

much nervous impatience, constantly keeping his hand near his concealed revolver, and looking round to see if such a thing as a tomahawk was descending in the direction of his skull. Our recent guides were fully occupied in answering the innumerable questions which every one asked of them. I had never before witnessed so much natural vivacity, animation, or fierce gesticulation evoked by conversation, as was now going on around me; unaccustomed as we were to such dancing and shouting, the alarm of my companion was but reasonable. The seven chiefs, who with rigid aspect, and in silence, kept their fourteen eyes fixed full upon us, still and steady, as if reading our very thoughts, tended much to disconcert the sailing master. He felt a momentary inclination to spring up and take to flight. I repeated my warning. We were evidently objects of rare curiosity to them. Those now before us had probably never seen a white man until the present occasion. They had perhaps heard of the existence of such, but nothing more.

While the chief of the seven was eyeing me, apparently more intently even than any of the

others, I suddenly thought of a vinaigrette which I had brought with me by some chance. I at once drew it forth, and so armed, proceeded to conciliate the natives, and ingratiate myself into their favour. Accordingly I handed it to the chief, whose eyes were so steadily directed towards me, signifying at the same time that he would do well to apply it to the region olfactory. He did so, and no sooner had he sniffed the perfume, than up he jumped, a seemingly charmed being, and as gleesome as he had before been the reverse. He applied it to dozens of noses one after the other, in rapid succession, looking in each case enquiringly into the countenance to observe the effect produced. Everybody was simultaneously anxious to bring his nose in close proximity with the object of attraction. The effect was almost magical, and from an ominous distrust all was friendship and hospitality. There was much leaping and laughter after this—much capering of fair women and brave men, and, what was better still, a prompt supply of food, consisting of fruits and vegetables, raw and prepared.

While we partook of this, a circle of young

females, fancifully decorated with flowers, engaged themselves in fanning aside the insects that occasionally alighted upon us, as well as in helping us to our unaccustomed viands. Meanwhile dozens of new faces were constantly making their appearance, and as quickly retiring again, to allow of the entrance of others. At length, and just as we had finished our repast, a noble-looking warrior, well proportioned and strikingly handsome, with a head-dress of towering plumes, stooped beneath the low portal and entered the house. The head-dress alluded to was formed of the splendid long and drooping tail feathers of the tropical bird, thickly interspersed with other brilliant pinions arranged in a large upright semicircle, their lower extremities being fixed in a crescent of guinea beads which spanned the forehead. Around his neck were several enormous necklaces of boars' tusks, polished like ivory, and so disposed that the longest and largest hung across his capacious chest. Thrust through the drop of each ear was a small and finely-shaped sperm whale tooth, presenting its cavity in front, stuffed with green leaves newly plucked, while at the other end it

was carved into images and unique devices. His loins were begirt with heavy folds of a dark coloured tappa, hanging before and behind in clusters of braided tassels, while anklets and bracelets of curling human hair completed his unique costume. In his right hand he grasped a beautifully carved paddle-spear, nearly fifteen feet in length, made of the bright koar-wood, one end sharply pointed and the other flattened like an oar blade. Hanging obliquely from his girdle, and a loop of sinnate, was a richly-decorated pipe, a slender reed forming the stem, which was coloured with a red pigment, while around it, as well as the idol bowl, fluttered little streamers of the thinnest tappa. But that which was most remarkable in the appearance of the splendid islander was the elaborated tattooing displayed over his entire body, in grotesque variety and profusion. The most simple and remarkable of all these ornaments was that which decorated his countenance. Two broad stripes of tattooing, diverging from the centre of his shaven crown, obliquely crossed both eyes, staining the lids to a little below the ear, where they united with another stripe, which swept in

a straight line along the lips, and formed the base of the triangle.

This warlike specimen of nature's nobility, upon entering the house, seated himself at the opposite side to that which we occupied, while all the rest cast their eyes from him to us, and *vice versa*, as if they were in expectation of some great interchange of ideas; meanwhile he eyed us steadily and with piercing scrutiny. It was not until the lapse of nearly ten minutes from the time of his entrance, that he proved himself endowed with the gift of utterance; but at the end of that time he commenced an harangue, addressed to us, which lasted for fully a quarter of an hour, and this he did in the most deliberate and emphatic manner, waxing more eloquent as he advanced, if we might judge by his gesticulations, but apparently never thinking that we were as wise as owls as to the subject of his address and no wiser.

"It's all Greek to me," said my companion at the outset, but as the warrior continued, his fears arose within him; it might be sentence of death—what did he know what it might not be?

He yearned for the deck of the frigate, but oh ! what a gulf between.

Strange to say, after this address was concluded, the warrior rose, and followed by several more naked personages, emerged through the doorway, leaving us seated and somewhat wondering. I was, however, satisfied that his mission was peaceful, although intended to acquaint and to warn us in some way, the particulars of which, owing to our dulness of comprehension, did not transpire.

We now rose and took our way out of the house, but lingered a little beyond the portal, in admiration of the prospect by which we were surrounded, and in curiosity to observe the dusky and tattooed figures, and their unique dwelling-places—things rare for civilised man ever to behold. I stood surveying the house from which I had just emerged.

I will describe its position. Near one side of the valley, and about midway up the ascent of a rather abrupt rise of ground, waving with the richest verdure, a number of large stones were laid in successive lines to the height of more than seven feet, and disposed in such a manner

that their level surface corresponded in shape with the habitation which was perched upon it. A narrow space, however, was reserved in front of the dwelling, and upon the summit of this pile of stones, which being enclosed by a little picket of canes, gave it somewhat the appearance of a verandah. The frame of the house was constructed of large bamboos planted uprightly, and secured together at intervals by transverse stalks of the light wood of the habiscus lashed with thongs of bark. The rear of the tenement, built up with successive ranges of cocoa-nut boughs bound one upon another with their leaflets woven together, inclined a little from the vertical, and extended from the extreme edge of the stone-work to about twenty feet from its surface. From this the shelving roof, thatched with the long tapering leaves of the palmetto, sloped steeply off to within about five feet of the floor, leaving the eaves drooping with tassel-like appendages over the front of the habitation The latter was constructed of light and elegant canes twisted into an open screen-work, tastefully adorned with bindings of variegated sinnate, which served to hold together its

various parts. The sides of the house were similarly built, thus presenting three quarters for the circulation of the air, while the whole was impervious to rain. In length this picturesque building was about twelve yards, while in breadth it did not exceed as many feet. On entering it, you passed in a necessarily stooping position through a narrow aperture in its front, and facing you on entering lay two long, perfectly straight and well-polished trunks of the cocoa-nut tree, extending the full length of the dwelling, one of them placed closely against the rear, and the other lying parallel with it at the distance of about two yards, the interval between them being spread with a multitude of gaily-worked mats, nearly all of a different pattern. This space formed the common couch and lounging-place of the inmates, where they reclined luxuriously by day and slumbered through the night. The remainder of the floor presented only the cool shining surfaces of the large stones of which the outer pile was composed. From the ridge-pole of the house hung suspended a number of large packages enveloped in the coarse native cloth made of bark, and

which I have before mentioned under the name of tappa. These contained festival adornments and various other items appertaining to the wardrobe and toilette, which appeared to be held in high estimation. They were rendered easy of access by means of a line, which, passing over the ridge-pole, had one end attached to a bundle, while with the other, which led to the side of the dwelling and was there secured, each package could be lowered or elevated at pleasure.

Against the farther wall of the house were arranged, in tasteful figures, a variety of spears, javelins, and other instruments of warfare, the island being divided between two hostile tribes. Outside the edifice, and built upon the piazza-like area in its front, was a low shed used as a sort of larder, and in which were stored various articles of domestic use. A few yards removed from the high stone-work was a large shed, built of cocoa-nut boughs, in which all the culinary operations of the household were conducted. This description would apply to nearly all the other tenements of the place.

I gazed again upon the aboriginal picture,

and mused: "Here," said I, "are none of those countless sources of evil and irritation which civilised man has devised to torture his own existence, to mar his own felicity. Here are no foreclosures of mortgages, no protested notes, no bills payable, no unreasonable tradesmen perversely bent on being paid; no duns, no debts, no attorneys to tear as vultures the fortunes of their struggling prey; no widows and orphans starving on the cold charities of the world, especially on 'Christian charity,' the most uncharitable thing on earth; no debtors' prisons, no beggars, and, better than all, no money." All was health, and joy, and beauty. Life was free of toil, and a perpetual heyday.

We now took our leave of those about us, and resumed our explorative journey across country towards the Nookoora bay. As we proceeded on our way, bands of young slightly-tattooed girls, decked with beads of flowers, darted from out the surrounding groves, and accompanied us with shouts of merriment and delight. But soon they left us again, and the country presented no sign of habitation. Wearily and for hours we toiled in our passage over the

rugged ridges that intercepted our path towards the desired bay, and it was not until sunset that we rounded a point which revealed to us the welcome hull of the frigate. Our companion of the first day had regained the starting-point in safety late on the previous night, but much anxiety had been felt on our account, and a search party had been formed and appointed to start at sunrise on the next day to follow in our track.

CHAPTER III.

On the ensuing morning I again went on shore in company with the captain and first lieutenant, for the purpose of acquiring such scanty information of the natives, their manners, and customs, as our short stay at the island would allow.

The incidents of the day began with my entering an open shed of cocoa-nut boughs, in the centre of which was a tier constructed of elastic bamboo ingeniously twisted together, and on which lay a corpse neatly wrapped in new white cloth of bark. The bier was supported at an elevation of about two feet from the

ground, by large canes planted upright in the earth. Two females, wearing a very dejected aspect, watched by its side, plaintively chanting and beating the air with large grass fans whitened with pipe-clay. I ascertained that the body was that of a young man who had died about daybreak—only a few hours back.

In the dwelling-house adjoining, a numerous company were assembled, and various articles of food were being prepared for consumption. Three individuals, distinguished by head-dresses of beautiful native cloth, and wearing numerous ornaments, such as the teeth and polished bones of fish, appeared to be officiating as masters of the ceremonies, which latter, I was informed, would last for two days following, without intermission.

With the exception of those who remained by the corpse, every one seemed disposed to drown the sense of the late bereavement in convivial indulgence. The girls, decked out in their native finery, with Flora for their jeweller, danced gaily, while the old men chanted, and the warriors in their feathers smoked and chatted, and the young men held their revels, and all feasted, and seemed to be enjoying themselves with as

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much display of merriment as though they were contributing to the festivity of a wedding.

The islanders understand the art of embalming, and practise it with such success that the bodies of their great chiefs are frequently preserved for many years in the very houses where they died. I saw two of these in the course of this day. One was enveloped in immense folds of *tappa*, with only the face exposed, and hung erect against the side of the dwelling. The other was extended upon a bier of bamboo, in an open elevated temple—a sort of mausoleum consecrated to his memory. The heads of enemies killed in battle are invariably preserved and hung up as trophies in the houses of the conquerors. I saw one such, and, alike with the bodies last mentioned, it presented the appearance of being well smoked. The process employed I was unable to acquaint myself with.

I have already made frequent allusion to the native cloth; and, having had sufficient curiosity, at the time of which I write, to make myself acquainted with the process of its manufacture, I will here describe it.

The preliminary operation consists in gather-

ing a certain quantity of the young branches of certain trees. The exterior green bark, which is considered worthless, having been pulled off, there remains a slender fibrous substance, which is carefully stripped from the stick to which it closely adheres. When a sufficient quantity of it has been collected, the various strips are enveloped in a covering of large leaves, which the natives use precisely as we do wrapping-paper, and which are secured by a few turns of a line passed round them. The package is then laid in the bed of some running stream, with a heavy stone placed over it, to prevent its being swept away.

After it has remained for a few days in this state, it is drawn out, and exposed for a short time to the action of the air—every distinct piece being attentively inspected, with a view of ascertaining whether it has been sufficiently affected by the process. This is repeated until the desired result is obtained, by which time the substance is in a state of incipient decomposition, the fibres being relaxed and softened, and rendered perfectly malleable.

The different strips are now extended, one by

one, in successive layers, upon some smooth surface, generally the prostrate trunk of a cocoa-nut tree; and the heap thus formed is subjected, at every new increase, to a moderate beating with a sort of mallet, in shape like a four-sided razor-strop, and made of hard wood. The flat surfaces of the implement, which is about twelve inches in length by two in breadth, with a round handle at one end, are marked with shallow parallel indentations, varying in depth on the different sides, so as to be adapted to the several stages of the operation. These marks produce the corduroy sort of stripes discernible in the cloth in its finished state.

After being beaten in the manner described, the material soon becomes blended in one mass; which, moistened occasionally with water, is at intervals hammered out by a kind of gold-beating process to any degree of thinness required. In this way the cloth is easily made to vary in strength and thickness, so as to suit the numerous purposes to which it is applied.

After this, the newly-prepared fibre is spread out on the grass to bleach and dry, and soon becomes of a dazzling whiteness. Sometimes,

in the first stage of the manufacture, the substance is impregnated with a vegetable juice, which gives it a permanent colour. A rich brown and a bright yellow are occasionally seen; but the simple taste of the inhabitants inclines them to prefer the natural colour.

One thing which I observed surprised me very much; and that was the native method of striking a light.

A straight, dry, and partly decayed stick of the habiscus, about six feet in length and three inches in diameter, together with a smaller piece of wood, not more than a foot long, and scarcely an inch wide, constituted the match-box in every tenement. I saw one of these put in use. The native placed the larger stick obliquely against a block of stone, one end of which stick he elevated at an angle of about forty-five degrees, and then mounted astride of it, after which he grasped the smaller one firmly in both hands, and rubbed its pointed end slowly up and down the extent of a few inches on the principal stick, until at last he made a narrow groove in the wood with an abrupt termination at the point furthest from him, where all the dusty

particles which the friction created were accumulated in a small heap. Gradually he quickened his pace, and waxing warm in the employment, drove the stick furiously along the smoking channel, plying his hands to and fro with amazing rapidity, the perspiration meanwhile starting from every pore. As he approached the climax of his effort, he panted and gasped for breath, and his eyes almost started from their sockets with the violence of his exertions. He had now arrived at the critical stage of the operation. All his previous labours would be rendered futile, if he did not sustain the rapidity of the movement until the reluctant spark came forth. Suddenly he stopped, and became perfectly motionless. His hands still retained their hold of the smaller stick, which he pressed convulsively against the further end of the channel among the fine dust there accumulated, as if he had just pierced and pinned some small viper that was wriggling and struggling to escape from his clutches. The next moment, a delicate wreath of smoke curled spirally into the air, the heaps of dusty particles glowed with fire, and the operator, almost breathless, dismounted from

his seat on the inclined plane. This was the most laborious thing of the kind I had ever seen; but it was an institution of the country; and while the natives were satisfied, I had no cause to do otherwise than admire such dexterous perseverance. It was the only hard work they ever did.

I found the bread-fruit tree and the cocoa-nut to be the most abundant as well as the most valuable upon the island. Of the first, and the mode of preparing its fruit, I shall offer a description. The tree, in its glorious prime, is a grand and towering object, with wide-spread, stalwart branches, and imposing height. The leaves are of great size, and their edges are cut and scolloped as fantastically as the most artistic design in European lace-work. As they annually tend towards decay, the tints displayed among their foliage are as varied as in effect they are beautiful. The leaf, in one particular stage, when nearly all the prismatic colours are blended on its surface, is often converted by the natives into a superb and highly ornamental head-dress. In doing this, the principal fibre traversing its length is split open to a certain length, and the elastic sides of the aperture pressed apart. The

head is then inserted between them, the leaf drooping on one side, its frontal half being turned up jauntily on the brows, while the remaining part spreads laterally behind the ears.

The fruit somewhat resembles in size and appearance an ordinary citron melon; but, unlike the citron, it has no sectional lines drawn along the outside. Its surface is dotted all over with little conical prominences; the rind is about an eighth of an inch in thickness; and denuded of this at the time when it is in its greatest perfection, the fruit presents a beautiful globe of white pulp, the whole of which is eatable, the slender core excepted, which is easy of removal. It is, however, invariably cooked before being made fit for human food.

The most simple method of doing this is to place any number of the freshly plucked fruit, when in a particular stage of greenness, among the embers of a fire. After the lapse of about a quarter of an hour the green rind embrowns and cracks, displaying through the fissures in its sides the milk-white interior. As soon as it cools, the rind drops off, and the soft, round pulp in its purest and most delicious state is

ready for the *table.* Sometimes it is subjected to a second process. As soon as it is taken from the fire, the exterior is removed, the core extracted, and the remaining part placed in a sort of shallow stone mortar, and briskly worked with a pestle of the same substance. While one person is performing this operation, another takes a ripe cocoa nut, and breaking it in half, proceeds to grate the juicy contents into fine particles. This is done by means of a piece of mother-of-pearl shell lashed firmly to the extreme end of a heavy stick, with its straight side accurately notched like a saw. The stick is sometimes a grotesquely carved limb of a tree, with three or four branches twisting from its body like so many shapeless legs, and sustaining it two or three feet from the ground. The native, first placing a calabash beneath the projecting part of his wooden machine, for the purpose of its receiving the grated fragments as they fall, places himself astride of it, and twirling the inside of one of his halves of cocoa nut round the sharp teeth of the mother-of-pearl shell, the nut falls in snowy showers into the receptacle provided.

When he has obtained a quantity sufficient for his purpose, he places it in a bag made of the net-like fibrous substance attached to all cocoa nut trees, and compressing it over the bread fruit, which being now sufficiently pounded, is put into a wooden bowl, he extracts a thick, creamy milk. The delicious liquid soon bubbles round the fruit and leaves, it at last just peeping above its surface. The preparation is now ready, and a very luscious one it is.

At certain seasons of the year, when the fruit has reached its maturity, and hangs in golden spheres from every branch, the natives assemble in harvest groups and garner in the abundance which surrounds them. The trees are stripped of their nodding burdens, which, easily freed from the rind and core, are gathered together in capacious wooden vessels, where the pulpy fruit is soon worked, by a stone pestle vigorously applied, into a blended mass of a firm paste-like consistency. This is then divided into separate parcels, which, after being made up into stout packages, enveloped in successive folds of leaves, and bound round with thongs of bark, are stored away in large receptacles

hollowed in the earth, from whence they are drawn as occasion may require. In this condition it sometimes remains undisturbed for years,—the supposition being that it improves with age. Before it is fit to be eaten, however, it has to undergo an additional process. A primitive oven is scooped in the ground, and its bottom being loosely covered with stones, a large fire is kindled within it. As soon as the requisite degree of heat is attained, the embers are removed, and the surface of the stones being covered with thick layers of leaves, one of the large packages of the preparation is deposited upon them, and overspread with another layer of leaves. The whole is then quickly heaped up with loam, and forms a sloping mound. This baking converts the mass into an amber-coloured cake-like substance, slightly tart, but by no means ungrateful to the palate.

By another and final process the latter may be changed into what is termed kee-kee, the form in which it is most commonly consumed. This is quickly done; the composition, as we last left it, being merely placed in a vessel and mixed with water until it gains a proper pudding-like consistency,

which is highly glutinous. It is conveyed to the mouth by the fore-finger being dipped into its adhesive depth, and by a peculiar twirl of that then thickly coated limb it is conveyed to the mouth, from which the finger is just as quickly withdrawn entirely free of the paste. This dipping is continued till the hunger of the individual engaged is sufficiently appeased to induce a cessation of operations in that respect.

In the course of our wanderings we came within view of a remarkable pyramidical structure, evidently of recent erection, and adjoining a large wooden tenement. Crowds were assembled around both, and much feasting and revelry were evidently going forward. Arches of calabashes and cocoa nuts were to be seen decked with flowers, beneath which the damsels were dancing gaily, and otherwise enjoying themselves in the shade. The whole population of the district appeared to be gathered within the precincts of this one grove, and to be taking part in this one festive scene. In the distance we discerned the long front of another and larger tenement, its immense piazza swarming with men arrayed in every variety of fantastic costume, and all

vociferating with animated gestures, while the entire space between was enlivened by groups of females fancifully decorated, and uttering exclamations of a strangely ringing wildness. We advanced in the direction of the larger tenement, skirting and hiding ourselves in the grove as we went, so as not to prove a source of interruption to the revels of the happy throng, who were already alarmed at our presence, and set up a peculiar halloo, which somewhat startled my companions, but which I informed them was more expressive of dismay and surprise than anything else.

"We'll introduce ourselves presently, and rely upon it we shall have a welcome." And in five minutes afterwards I had made my salaam to one of the chiefs, and a band of young girls were dancing round us, chanting as they went.

Over the entire length of the piazza of the larger tenement were arranged elaborately-carved canoe-shaped vessels, some twenty feet in length, filled with newly-prepared bread-fruit and cocoa-nut, and sheltered from the sun by the broad leaves of the banana. At intervals were heaps

of green bread-fruit raised in pyramidical stacks.

Inserted into the interstices of the huge stones, which formed the groundwork, were large boughs of trees, hanging from the branches of which, and screened from the sun by their foliage, were innumerable small packages with leafy coverings, containing the cooked flesh of hogs, which had been thus folded and divided, in order to make it more accessible to the multitude. Leaning against the railing of the piazza were an immense number of long, heavy bamboos, plugged at the lower end, and with their projecting muzzles stuffed with a wad of leaves. These were filled with water from a neighbouring stream, and each of them held from four to five gallons.

This was the banquet, and every one was at liberty to help himself at pleasure. Accordingly, every moment witnessed some new demolition of the good things. Calabashes of the kee-kee were being replenished at short intervals from the extensive receptacle in which that article was stored, and numerous small fires were burning about the tenement for the purpose of roasting the bread-fruit. The interior of the building

itself presented a sight still more novel. The immense lounge of mats, lying between the parallel rows of the trunks of cocoa-nut trees and extending the entire length of the house, at least two hundred feet, was covered with the reclining forms of a host of chiefs and warriors, who were either eating with much gusto, or indulging in the sedative fumes of the native tobacco, which grows wild. The smoke was inhaled from large pipes, the bowls of which, made out of small cocoa-nut shells, were curiously carved over with strange devices. These were passed from hand to hand by the recumbent smokers; each, after taking two or three prodigious whiffs, handed the pipe to his neighbour; sometimes, in order to accomplish that purpose, stretching himself indolently across the body of some dozing individual, whose exertions at the feast had already induced a state of somnolence.

On entering from the house we were surprised to see the whole distance filled by bands of girls, shouting and dancing, under the influence of some strange excitement. Nearer we were amused at the appearance of half-a-dozen

old women *in puris naturalibus*, who, with their arms hanging flatly at their sides and holding themselves perfectly erect, were leaping stiffly into the air, meanwhile preserving the utmost gravity of countenance. After continuing their extraordinary movements without a single moment's cessation for about a quarter of an hour, they ceased their performance, which appeared to attract little or no attention, and quietly disappeared in the crowd. I tried to ascertain the reason for the dance of so unsightly a group, but my curiosity was not rewarded with the desired information. We were now invited to partake of the viands spread as before described, one of the chiefs showing us how to eat the kee-kee, by dipping his forefinger into a calabash of it, and twirling it thence into his mouth. I tried it, but the operation proved difficult to the unaccustomed, and I should have had a wearisome task to perform before dining sufficiently, by the medium of so dexterous and limited an agency.

From this we passed on to the *Tooloola* ground. Within the spacious quadrangle the whole population of the neighbourhood seemed

to be assembled, and the sight was at once unique and remarkable. Beneath the sheds of bamboo which opened towards the interior of the square, reclined the principal chiefs, while a miscellaneous throng lay at ease under the foliage of the majestic trees. Upon the terraces of gigantic altars, built at either end, were deposited green bread-fruit in baskets of cocoa-nut leaves, also large rolls of native cloth, bunches of ripe bananas, clusters of mammee apples, the golden-hued fruit of the ootoo tree, and baked hogs, all laid out in large wooden trenches fancifully decorated with freshly-plucked leaves, whilst a variety of rude implements of war were piled in confused heaps before the ranks of strangely-carved idols hewn out of wood. Fruits of various kinds were likewise suspended in leafen baskets, from the tops of poles planted uprightly and at regular intervals along the lower terraces of both altars. At their base were arranged two parallel rows of cumbersome drums, standing about sixteen feet in height, and formed from the hollow trunks of large trees. Their heads were covered with shark skins, and their barrels were

elaborately carved with a variety of unique figures and devices. At regular distances they were bound round with a species of sinnate of various colours, while strips of native cloth were fastened upon them here and there. Behind these instruments were built slight platforms, upon which stood about twenty young men who beating violently with the palms of their hands upon the drum-heads, produced outrageous sounds, which, however, appeared to conduce to the general hilarity. Every few minutes these musical performers hopped down from their elevation and mingled with the crowd below, while their places in the orchestra were immediately occupied by others; thus an incessant din was kept up, a perpetual whirring and booming, which entirely belonged to the order of things startling. In the centre of the quadrangle were placed perpendicularly in the ground a hundred or more slender fresh-cut poles, stripped of their bark, and decorated at the end with a floating pennant of white cloth, the whole being fenced about by a picket of canes. The meaning of this I was unable to discover.

Another striking feature of the performance

going on around was exhibited by fifteen old men, who sat cross-legged in the little pulpits which encircled the trunks of the immense trees growing in the middle of the enclosure. These antique accessories, who it was presumed were the priests, kept up an uninterrupted and most monotonous chant, which was nearly drowned in the roar of drums.

In the right hand they each held a finely-woven grass fan, with a heavy black wooden handle, curiously carved, and which fans they kept in as perpetual a motion as their tongues. But alike with the drummers, no attention seemed to be paid to these patriarchal gentlemen, the individuals who composed that vast crowd present being taken up in chatting and laughing with one another, smoking, drinking, and eating. Such a prodigious uproar—such striking of instruments and clatter of voices—such aboriginal romping and gesticulation—in fact, anything so imposingly, so wondrously complicated, yet so wild, I had never witnessed before, and never shall again. My companions were half bewildered at the strange scene in the midst of which they found themselves. Did they dream? and

was this pandemonium? Oh, no; cheer up, captain, they are only the wild children of nature, holding their revels in the happy enjoyment of life, and no doubt they would be better without us. Let us go. And so we passed from the glad scene of profusion and delight, and were soon again treading our lonely way through the shady groves of Nookooroo.

CHAPTER IV.

On our way we skirted a stream, while doing which we observed a woman sitting upon a rock in the midst of the current, and watching with the liveliest interest the gambols of something which at first we unanimously took to be an uncommonly large species of frog that was sporting in the water near her. Attracted by the novelty of the sight, we advanced towards the spot where she sat, and could hardly credit the evidence of our senses, when we beheld a small infant, the period of whose birth, judging by unmistakeable appearances, could not have been many days anterior, and which offspring was paddling about

as if it had just risen to the surface after being launched into existence at the bottom. Occasionally the delighted parent held out her hands towards it, when the little thing uttering a faint cry and striking out its tiny limbs, would sidle for the rock, and the next moment be clasped to its mother's breast. This was repeated again and again, the baby remaining in the stream about a minute at a time. Once or twice it made wry faces at swallowing a mouthful of water, and coughed and spluttered as if in the act of choking. At such times, however, the mother snatched it up, and by a peculiar jerking of its body induced an ejection of the undue element. Thus early are the inhabitants of these islands initiated into the swimming art. No wonder, therefore, that their amphibiousness is so manifest in after-life.

Winding our way through the groves, we came upon a scene which would have refreshed the eye of the antiquarian, as much as it impressed us with an idea of the great antiquity of the structures which it embraced. At the base of one of the hills, and surrounded on all sides by dense groves, a series of vast terraces of stone

rose step by step for a considerable distance up its slope. These terraces were not less than a hundred yards in length by thirty in width. Their magnitude, however, was less striking than the immense size of the blocks composing them. Some of the stones, the latter of an oblong shape, were fifteen feet in length, by a thickness of six feet. Their sides were quite smooth, but although square and of regular formation, they bore no mark of the chisel. They were laid together without cement, and here and there gaps intervened between them. The topmost terrace and the lower one were somewhat more peculiar in their construction; they had each a quadrangular depression in the centre, leaving the rest of the terrace elevated several feet above it. In the interstices of the stones immense trees were growing, their wide-spreading branches forming a canopy which was almost impenetrable to the rays of the sun. Overgrowing the greater part of them, and climbing from one to the other, flourished a luxuriant wilderness of vines, in whose sinewy embrace many of the stones lay half hidden, while in some places a thick growth of underwood entirely covered them.

A wild pathway obliquely crossed two of these terraces, but so profound was the shade, so dense the vegetation, that we were just as likely to have passed along it without being aware of these vestiges of the colossal handiwork of a generation long departed. There were no inscriptions, no sculpture, no clue by which to conjecture their history, the dumb stones alone bore testimony of the past. Here was a scene that inspired me with as much interest as the circumstance of my being unable to ascertain more about it filled me with regret.

A little way beyond this, in a spot secluded by the banks of the same stream in which we had just seen the young islander disport, and beneath the shade of a growth of palms which stood ranged along its banks, waving their green arms in the gentle breeze, we came upon the mausoleum of a deceased warrior chief. Like all the other principal edifices, it was raised upon a small platform of stones, which latter being of unusual height, was a conspicuous object as seen from a distance. A light thatching of bleached palmetto leaves hung over it like a self-supported canopy; for it was not until we approached

very closely that we observed its support of four slender columns of bamboo rising at each corner to a height of about six feet. A clear area of a few yards surrounded the stone-work, and was enclosed by four trunks of cocoa-nut trees resting at the angles on massive blocks of stone. Sacred was the place—holy was the ground we trod. The sign of consecration was displayed in the form of a mystic roll of white bark cloth, suspended by a twisted cord of the same material from the top of a slight pole planted within the enclosure. The sanctity of the spot appeared never to have been violated. The silent stillness of the grave reigned around, impressive in its solemnity; and the calmness of its solitude was at once beautiful and touching.

The soft shadows of those lofty palm-trees hung over the little temple, adding sombreness to shade—how graceful to the view, how fitting to the scene. Welcome palms! still before my vision are your forms. As we approached this silent spot we caught sight of the commemorated chief's effigy placed in a sitting posture in the stern of a canoe, which was raised on a light frame a few inches above the level of the

stone-work. The canoe was about seven feet in length, and of a rich dark-coloured wood, handsomely carved, and adorned in many places with variegated bindings of stained sinnate, into which were ingeniously wrought numerous sparkling sea-shells, while a belt of the latter ran all round it. The body of the figure was effectually concealed by a heavy robe of white bark cloth, revealing only the hands and head, the latter skilfully carved in wood, and surmounted by a superb arch of plumes; these, in the subdued breeze which fanned across to this sequestered spot, were constantly in motion, nodding and waving over the hero's brow. The long leaves of the palmetto drooped over the eaves, and through them the chief could be seen holding his paddle with both hands in the act of rowing, leaning forward and inclining his head as if eager to hurry on his voyage. Glaring at him, and face to face, was a polished human skull, which crowned the prow of his canoe. This spectral figure-head, reversed in its position, and glancing backwards, seemed to mock the impatient attitude of the warrior. There he was, paddling his way to the realms of bliss, where

bread fruit trees dropped their ripened spheres to the ground in plenty, and where cocoa-nuts and bananas were in equal abundance; where the mats were much finer than in Nookoora, and where rivers of cocoa-nut oil invited the glowing limbs of that realm's inhabitants. Farewell, brave one, I must leave thee. Here was a sign of that vague yearning of the spirit of man after the unknown future—that soaring up to immortality.

CHAPTER V.

A COCOA-NUT tree is a beautiful sight, and here I often stood and feasted my eyes on its invaluable and inviting fruit, which, borne aloft on a stately column more than a hundred feet from the ground, almost tempted me to climb in its pursuit; but the endeavour would have been vain, for the slender, smooth, and soaring trunk, without a single limb or protuberance, presented an obstacle in the way of ascending it that was only to be overcome by the surprising agility and ingenuity of the natives. Their voluptuous and luxurious indolence it might be supposed would lead them to patiently await

the period when the ripened nuts, slowly parting from their stems, would fall one by one to the ground; and this would no doubt be the case, were it not that the young fruit, encased in a soft green husk, is what they chiefly prize. The reason of this is, that at that stage of its growth the incipient fruit adheres in a jelly-like pellicle to the sides of the shell, and contains a bumper of the most delicious nectar. There exists about twenty different terms among the islanders to express as many progressive stages in the development of the nut. Many of them reject the fruit altogether except at a particular period of its growth. Others are still more capricious in their tastes, and after gathering a heap of the nuts, variously aged, and ingeniously tapping them, will sip first from one and then from another as fastidiously as an exquisite in wines, glass in hand, will explore his cellar and taste of the different vintages.

In climbing the tree, which can only be done by the possessors of flexible frames, the native rushes towards it, and clasping both arms about the trunk, with one elevated a little above the other, he presses the soles of his feet close toge-

ther against the tree, extending his legs from it until they are nearly horizontal, and his body becomes doubled into an arch; then, hand over hand and foot over foot, he rises from the earth with steady rapidity, and quickly gains the cradled and embowered nest of nuts, and, with a boisterous manifestation of glee, flings the fruit to the ground.

This mode of walking the tree is only practicable where the trunk declines considerably from the perpendicular. This, however, is almost invariably the case; many even of the perfectly straight stems lean at an angle of thirty degrees.

The less active among the men, and many of the young children, have another method of climbing. They take a broad and stout piece of bark, and secure either end of it to their ankles, so that when the feet thus confined are extended apart, a space of about twelve inches is left between them. This contrivance greatly facilitates the act of climbing. The band pressed against the tree, and closely embracing it, yields a tolerably firm support, while with the arms clasped about the trunk, and at regular

distances sustaining the body, the feet are drawn up nearly a yard at a time, and a corresponding elevation of the hands immediately succeeds. At the top of the tree the numerous branches, radiating on all sides from a common centre, form a sort of green and waving basket, between the leaflets of which the nuts are to be discovered clustering thickly together, and on the loftier trees looking no bigger, as seen from the ground, than bunches of grapes.

The birds of the island are beautiful, but songless; they come down in gleaming flights from the mountains; and the gay plumage of starry throngs may be seen flashing in the sunlight as they sweep across the valleys; but, alas! there is not a warbler among them. Their beauty is dumb,—they flit away like spirits—solemn messengers, I ween, are the purple-billed birds of Nookoora.

Besides the sticks and drums, there were no other musical instruments among the islanders, save one, which might figure under the denomination of a nasal flute. It was somewhat longer than an ordinary fife, and made of a beauiful scarlet-coloured reed. It was provided with

five stops and a large hole near one end, which latter, during the time of being played upon, was held just beneath the left nostril; the right one being closed by a peculiar movement of the muscles about the nose. It produced a soft dulcet sound, which was varied by the fingers running at random over the stops. This instrument affords a favourite recreation to the gentler sex, and is very gracefully handled.

I was much pleased to observe the simplicity of manner, the freedom from all restraint, and the equality of condition, with trifling exceptions, presented by the island community. There was no assumption of arrogant pretensions, and a very slight difference of costume only distinguished the chiefs from the rest. The required degree of deference towards the former was willingly and cheerfully yielded, and all seemed to live in the most perfect social harmony. No courts of law and equity,—no municipal police or legal provisions here existed, or were here required.

The people were actuated by an inherent principle of good-will towards each other, and

by that sort of tacit instinctive law which discriminates between right and wrong, and which is innate, and by nature belongs to us all, wherever we may be. Contrast the practice of this with a civilised community, and mark the mighty difference! The produce of the earth, by primitive right, belongs equally to us all, and it is only where civilization steps in that the sharing is rendered so unequal that vast numbers are exposed to starvation, while others are burdened with an excess, which, if more equally distributed, would have contributed to the good of all, without exception.

Civilization, as we at present find it, by no means engrosses all the virtues of our nature; it has even blunted them beneath the sheer force of a vicious strength. They flourish far more among the uncivilised nations of the earth.

Here I found a people living together in the most perfect unison of thought and action. I am by no means a *savage* in my tastes; and, although I have been an observer of much that is wild and aboriginal, I am personally as much

a lover of the luxuries and refinements of civilisation as I should be the reverse to become the occupant of a gunya, or wigwam, or any such similar habitation, or to engage myself in climbing after cocoa nuts in a suit of bright tattoo; but I say again that although there is less enlightenment, the practice of the virtues of our species is more rife among the members of a barbarous than a civilised people. This is a plain incontrovertible fact, and its existence is a melancholy subject to reflect upon, showing as it does the imperfection of our present system of *society*—I use the word in its broadest sense—and the need it has of *regeneration*. This last is a very sermon-like word to use, but, reader, it expresses the very thing which, in this year of grace eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, we all want, both as men and nations; the probability, however, is, that we shall have to wait a long time for it—in other words, that the process will be a very slow one, and that more than one generation will pass away before there is much appearance of the *re*-generation. Such is life.

As we were emerging from the wood into an

open space near the shore, we had a full view of one of the handsomest native men I had seen on the island. He could not have been more than twenty-five years of age, and was a little above the average height; had he been in the slightest degree taller, the matchless symmetry of his form would have been destroyed. His unclad limbs were beautifully shaped, while the outline of his figure, the oval of his countenance, and the regularity of every feature, were alike faultless. His hair was a rich curling brown, and twined about his temples and neck in close ringlets. His cheek was of a feminine softness, and his face was free from the least blemish of tattooing, although the rest of his body was drawn all over with fanciful figures, which appeared, unlike the usual unconnected sketching, to have been executed in conformity with some general design. The tattooing on his back in particular attracted my attention. Traced along the course of the spine was accurately delineated the slender tapering and diamond-checkered shaft of the beautiful *ootoo* tree. Branching from the stem on either side, and disposed

alternately, were the graceful boughs drooping with leaves, all correctly drawn and elaborately finished. A near view of him might have suggested the idea of a spreading vine tacked against a garden wall. Upon his breast, arms, and legs were exhibited a great variety of figures, every one of which, however, appeared to have reference to the general effect sought to be produced. The tattooing was of the brightest blue, and when contrasted with the light olive colour of the skin, produced a unique and even elegant effect. A slight girdle of the native white cloth, scarcely two inches in width, but hanging in front, and the reverse, in spreading tassels, composed his entire costume. In his right hand he grasped a long and richly decorated spear. As we neared him, his eyes flashed with surprize and animation, while his countenance expressed the keenest intelligence.

We halted at a short distance, and signalled him to approach; but, instead of so doing, he uttered an exclamation, accompanied with a wave of the spear hand, and walked deliberately into the forest. This was the last aboriginal incident worthy of being recorded that met my ob-

servation on the island, for in half an hour afterwards, during which time we did not meet a single individual, we gained the beach, and took our seats in the gig there waiting our return.

CHAPTER VI.

No one could fail, on beholding the islanders of Nookoora, in being struck with admiration of the great strength and beauty of their forms, or yet in remarking the marvellous whiteness of their well-cut teeth; nor yet could he fail in observing, and that perhaps with astonishment, the endless variety of complexions which the population presents. In symmetrical mould of form they surpassed the physical beauty of any other race I had ever seen. The men in nearly every instance were of lofty stature, that is not less than six feet, while each would have afforded a good model for the sculptor. With

the women, however, the case, as regards height, was just the reverse, they being, without exception, exceedingly diminutive.

The climate favours rapid physical development, and girls at thirteen may be seen nursing their own children, while their noble lords are but little more advanced in years. It is difficult to assign an adequate cause for the variation in complexions. I observed several young girls whose skin was of an almost Anglo-Saxon whiteness, a slight dash of the mantling brown being all that marked the difference. This comparative fairness of complexion, although in a great degree perfectly natural, was partly the result of an artificial process, and of an entire exclusion from the sun. The juice of the le-ka root, which grows abundantly on the island, I found to be much used by the women as a cosmetic, and with which many of them daily anointed the entire body. The habitual use of it tends to whiten and beautify the skin. Those of the young females who resorted to this method of heightening their charms, never exposed themselves to the rays of the sun. This may

be thought to have been a rather inconvenient observance, but such, however, was not so felt, on account of there being but few of the inhabited portions of a district that were not shaded over with a spreading canopy of foliage, so that one might journey from house to house, scarcely deviating from the direct course, and yet never cast a shadow.

In its application, the le-ka, which is of a light green colour, is allowed to remain upon the skin for several hours, imparting for the time being a similar hue to the complexion. The appearance, therefore, of a young lady while undergoing this process, is very singular, and as much suggestive of vegetable as of animal life.

All the islanders are more or less in the habit of anointing themselves, the women giving preference to the le-ka, and the men to the oil of the cocoa-nut. To this cause, united to their frequent bathing and extreme cleanliness, was ascribable in part the almost marvellous purity and smoothness of the skin exhibited by the people in general.

The prevailing tint among the women was a light olive; others were darker, while a few were of a genuine golden colour, and some of a swarthy hue. The males I found considerably outnumbered the females, the result of which is that each of the latter has two husbands.

The ratio of increase among them was very small, a woman seldom having more than two children. This affords a pleasant contrast to the arithmetical progression—the rabbit-like fecundity in that respect, witnessed elsewhere.

The cares of the nursery, it was evident with the women of Nookoora, but seldom disturbed the serenity of their souls. No half-score of off-shoots tugged at their scanty garments, or disturbed the peace of their community.

Nature in this balmy clime supplies the wants of man without requiring the tribute of his labour. She has planted the bread fruit, the cocoa-nut, and the banana, and in her own good time she brings them to maturity, when the voluptuous heir to these good things extends his hand and gathers according to the dictates of his appetite.

Happy the being who can thus partake of the spontaneous fruits of the earth, and live without the degradation of being hired to toil. Here, in Europe, the mass of human beings are driven to their work as mere animals of burden; and as so many cogs in the wheel of labour, they toil from morning till night, day after day, and year after year, till, released by death, they find rest in their premature graves. And this is civilization.

Thousands every day perish the untimely victims to their own peculiar industry — pursuits of a pernicious nature called into existence by society, yet yielding to those engaged only a wretched pittance — a mere subsistence, and often not even bread. Contrast this with the luxurious indolence of primitive man, in the contented enjoyment of the gifts of nature as seen even in Nookoora. *He* is, however, already assailed by those indefatigable gentlemen the missionaries, who, aided by their wives and the usual swarm of children, (fruits consequent on the well-obeyed biblical injunction to people the earth,) lay the foundation

of a settlement by building up villas to themselves, and enclosing neat gardens and well-kept lawns, and assisting in the consumption of the produce which surrounds them, never thinking that every inch they thus occupy is so much curtailment of the resources of the aborigines, so much moral robbery, so much injustice, destined to be productive of more fatal injury and wretchedness than all the crime of the country from which they came, and where they are infinitely more needed than on the domains of aboriginalism, acting as pioneers in the path of a parcel of usurpers and invaders. It is consecrating wrong and overthrowing right, thus to send out disciples to *civilise* (?) aborigines,—to "civilise" is to hurry them to destruction,—to sweep them off the face of the earth, for the sake of gaining possession of the territories which they occupied through the course of ages.

Some of the missionaries at the Sandwich Islands held the natives in such little respect, that they made them do the work of horses in dragging them about the villages in a sort of

basket on wheels, and this is a sufficient criterion of the spirit which actuates many of them,—even they the representatives of *Christianity*.

Alas! that such degradation and destruction should inevitably attend what so many well-intentioned Christians at home give their aid to, and what so many models of excellence so strenuously advocate at our public gatherings. The enterprise, the task, the intended philanthropy deserves better; for no accession to the number of our faith has been virtually and permanently gained by the workings of missionaries. During life the natives are but nominal converts, understanding nothing in reality, nor caring to understand anything about the religion preached to them; and when the generation dies away, what is there left? Nothing but the inglorious triumph of civilization over aboriginalism—the victory of might over right.

There is no harm in the attempt to convert the Jews to Christianity, seeing that they belong to the same community as ourselves, and that they are capable of appreciating the merits of a particular religion; but the untutored Indian

lives in no such element; he has to be civilised at the same time that he is converted, and from past experience it is easy to see that the attempt is as destructive to him as it is fruitless to ourselves.

CHAPTER VII.

On the following morning the frigate steamed slowly out of the bay of Nookoora, and headed to the north. Quickly the inviting shores receded from my gaze, and that while I gave utterance to a heart-felt prayer for the preservation of the happy children of that favoured land from the farther encroachments of civilization. But how vain the hope! Nookoora will soon be laid desolate, and its people wither away before, to them, the pestilence; and instead of the joyous clamour of the feast, men will contend together for the base possession of lucre, and all the vice

and cruelty, the woe and misery—all the wretchedness and calamity of our enlightened system of society, will hiss upon the as yet unpolluted air of that far-off Eden.

THE END.

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